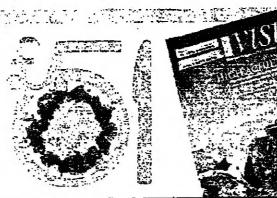
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TV and radio guide

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Kohl alarmed by opposition to unity

Nation state's day is over, Britain told

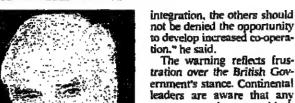
HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday urged Europe to turn its back on the nation state and resist efforts by Britain at the Maastricht review to slow down the advance to deeper integration

In a strong speech at the University of Louvain, Herr Kohl sounded a note of alarm over the growing opposition to the plan for monetary union and the other steps towards greater union set out in the Maastricht treaty. Europe seemed to be in a period of uncertainty in which the very continuation of European integration was being ques-tioned". He did not believe, however, that "the Europeans have become tired of Europe

Herr Kohl said there were grave dangers in slipping back to old ways and recalled Germany's invasion of Belgium in the two World Wars. European integration is in reality a question of war and peace in the 21st century." He endorsed the remark made last year by the late President Mitterrand of France that "nationalism is war".

'We have no desire to return -io the nation state of old. It cannot solve the great problems of the 21st century. Na-tionalism has brought great suffering to our continent."
This did not mean, however, the creation of a super-state. "It does not and never will exist," he said.

The Chancellor set out Ger-



Kohl: "A question of war and peace"

man demands for the review of the Maastricht treaty at the inter-governmental conference (IGC). Most of them are opposed by Britain and the Major Government is committed to setting out its terms in a White Paper before the conference gets under way at a summit in Turin on March 29. A setback at the IGC would

put Europe back for more than a generation, Herr Kohl said. He also emphasised that while the European Union was preparing to take on more members, "the slowest ship in the convoy should not be allowed to determine its speed". The maritime metaphor was adopted by Herr Kohl and President Chirac of France last month to depict Britain's refusal to accept any deeper integration.

"If individual partners are not prepared or able to participate in certain steps towards

integration, the others should not be denied the opportunity to develop increased co-opera-

ernment's stance. Continental leaders are aware that any state can use its veto to block changes to the EU treaty. Britain is far from alone in resisting aspects of the German agenda. France's Gauli-ist presidency is loath to cede more than a little ground on increasing majority voting and it does not want the European Parliament given more power. Sweden and Finland do not want to participate in a common defence.

Britain is closer to Germany than France on the need for rapid enlargement of the EU to Central and Eastern Europe, Herr Kohl, who was receiving an honorary degree, said it would be "disastrous" if enlargement were to dilute the Union's strength. "I would find it equally disastrous if Europe were only able to derive its strength from keeping others out," he said.

For Germany, the top priority at the IGC was strengthening the common foreign and security policy. All member states except Britain concede that this means a move to more qualified majority voting. Herr Kohl also made clear that Germany had a duty to take part in a pan-European policy to dispel the distrust it had earned from its history and economic power.



A fox took advantage of ice on the ornamental lake in the grounds of Buckingham Palace to reach the Queen's flamingos

Fox kills the Queen's flamingos

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM PALACE was reeling last night from its worst security breach since Michael Fagan sat on the Queen's bed and asked for a cigarette. A fox has penetrated the garden and killed the royal flamingos. Stunned palace officials

told yesterday how police had discovered the mutilated bodies of six birds close to the ornamental pond that had been their home since 1959, when they were presented to the Queen by London Zoo. The only remaining bird.

which appeared to have survived the attack, died of

Police, helped by Royal Household officials and expert gardeners, have mounted a massive operation to catch the intruder. Traps have been

laid in the 40-acre grounds, where the flamingos have been a favourite of garden party guests.

Last night, the palace said fresh footprints believed to belong to the murderer had been found, but no arrest had been made. The attack is thought to have happened last Friday during a particularly cold snap when the pond was frozen, so denying the birds the natural protection of

The nalace, always reluc tant to discuss security, would not say how the fox had entered a garden that is surrounded by a high brick wall topped with barbed wire.

measures," a spokeswoman said darkly, admitting that the area, despite the installation of many extra security devices since the Fagan incident, was still not fox-proof.

The birds were clearly happy here, and had a very good diet, we fed them twice a day with Durch cockles and shrimps to keep them pink," the spokeswoman added.

We used to send them to London Zoo in winter to keep warm, but the travel proved too stressful for them and one died. So we built them a hut in the middle of the pond where they could keep warm."
News of the massacre did

not surprise fiamingo experts last night. Simon Tonge, senior curator of London Zoo, said: "Foxes do kill exotic birds with monotonous regu-larity. Central London is full of urban foxes, who normally ordinary people's back gardens. But when the weather gets really cold they become desperate, daring, and no respecters of royalty."

Mr Tonge cast doubt on a

high brick wall, and suggest ed that the culprit had probatiny gap in one of several gates, normally locked and bolted, that give access to the

mitting enjoy remarkably long lives and although there is no Debrett-like family tree of the palace birds, they may well be survivors of the origin nai colony. Zoologists know of a pair of Australian flamingos that have recenify cele-brated their fiftieth birthday. and the oldest known me

ber of the species reached 60. The palace said last night think carefully about replace

ing the birds:
We certainly won't even consider it until we've caught the for, the spokeswoman

added.



shellfish and shrimps

Outcry at Hanson closures

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

HANSON yesterday said it was cutting 2,300 high-street jobs at Powerhouse, the electrical retailers, and closing 195

The industrial conglomerare chaired by Lord Hanson, which this week announced plans to split its operations into four new companies. started widespread protests over the closure programme which is being finalised.

Yarrow, the warship build-ers on the Clyde announced (£00 job losses and warned that there would be further job cuts unless the Government places orders with the yard for Royal Navy frigates.

Powerhouse doubts, p25 Yarrow cuts. p26

The Times on the Internet





IRA is blamed for AK47 attack on policeman's home

By Nicholas Watts, ireland correspondent

been responsible for an attack on the home of an off-duty police officer in which 57 shots were fired yesterday. The Northern Ireland Office said they were unaware of any motive for the shooting near Moy, Co Tyrone, but the weapon used has been identified as an AK47 assault rifle and detectives believe the Provisionals were involved.

The part-time RUC reservist and his wife, who were in bed at the time, escaped unhurt as armour piercing bullets ripped through walls and windows. No organisation claimed responsibility for the shooting. The RUC said 57 shots were fired, but officially refused to comment on who

was thought to be responsible. However, a senior security source said last night: "At this stage we believe it was the IRA. It was an AK47 and that is their type of weapon. One gun was used." This is the first time the IRA has been accused by police of shooting at one of their officers since the IRA

ceasefire 17 months ago. Dr lan Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said the attack was a "flagrant breach of the ceasefire, savage in its ferocity and murderous in its intent". He added that because of his concern for the consequences to the ceasefire, he had called on Sir John

Wheeler, the Northern Ireland Office Security Minister, to take whatever urgent mea-

sures were necessary.
This is not an isolated incident. There must be a full. forensic investigation of the ammunition used in this and other incidents." Dr Paisley said the officer

had been attacked before by the IRA and as a result certain security precautions were taken, like the fitting of bulletproof windows.

a very heavy calibre rifle destroyed his car." David Trimble, leader of the

Ulster Unionist Party, said: Over the last few months there have been an increasing number of violent incidents. There is an absence of a commitment to peaceful means and that does not augur well for the future." As Unionist MPs called on Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, to condemn the attack. Sir John Wheeler said the shooting underscored the need for all paramilitary org-anisations to disarm. He said:

> Simon Jenkins, page 20 Leading article, page 21

Continued on page 2, col 4

MANSIDE .

Simon Jenkins on how the Peace Process endangers the process

a new Britannia,

in Weekend

Richard Morrison

on the

transatlantic

showbiz war

Page 17

Saudi prince in

Savoy sale talks

The billionaire Saudi prince

who hailed out Euro Disney

two years ago has added the Savoy to his growing shop-ping list. Prince al-Waleed, who is emerging as one of the

world's most dynamic inves-

tors, is casting the slide rule

over the Savoy group, which includes Claridge's the

Berkeley and the Savoy itself.

His advisers say talks are at

of peace Page 20 Libby Purves on

The house was attacked by which smashed all the bulletproof windows and which actually cut and drove through the tiles of the roof of the house, and completely

Ashdown agrees to 24-hour bodyguard after car arson

By Andrew Pierce and Adrian Lee

PADDY ASHDOWN last night agreed to round-the-clock bodyguards at his constituency home in Somerset after his car was destroyed by. a petrol bomb early yesterday. Mr Ashdown's Vauxhall Senator erupted in flames at 4am outside his thatched cot-tage in the village of Norton sub Hamdon near Yeovil. It was parked in a nearby ga-rage which was badly

Detectives investigating the arson attack, only two months after Mr Ashdown was confronted by a knifeman, said that the Liberal Democrat leader had received anonymous threats. A brick was thrown through his car window several weeks ago.

The spate of threats came after Mr Ashdown's investigation into racist attacks on three Indian restaurants in Yeovil. Only weeks before the knife incident Mr Ashdown found-ed the Partnership Against Racial Harassment.

The police took the threats, by telephone and letter, so seriously that surveillance equipment was installed in the MP's garden. It was later removed

Mr Ashdown, S4, a former Marine commando who served with the Special Boat Squadron in the Far East, and his wife Jane were asleep in

firebombed, "Obviously we were shaken. But now I am determined to get on with my iob," he told reporters outside his home.

The Liberal Democrat leader, who has resisted the idea of police cover in the past, has bowed to the inevitable because of fears over the security of his wife who spends most of the week in the

constituency,
An Ashdown aide said last
night: "We will have to do something. We cannot ignore the police advice. As the leader of a party he has always been offered personal security. He has never wanted it because of the loss of privacy." A discreet police presence was expected to be in place within days

before permanent bodyguard arrangements were finalised. Mr Ashdown was playing down the incident. "I did not very much enjoy being woken at 4am, thank you. I am all right and my wife is in good order. The matter is now under criminal investigation.

Police said they were hunting two men seen acting suspiciously near the Ashdown cottage. They were spotted by officers on a routine patrol a few hours before the H registration car was destroyed. The Senator was Mr. Ashdown's personal car. He has a government issue Rover for official duties.

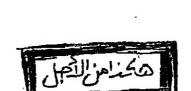
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LETTERS21 OBITUARIES 23 SIMON JENKINS 20



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guide, part 1

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US reluctant to take public stance on proposal.

Clinton 'leans' on Adams

Clinton 'leans' on Adams to reconsider elections

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration privately urged Gerry Adams to reconsider his opposition to Britain's plan for elections in Northern Ireland when the Sinn Fein leader visited the White House on Thursday.

Publicly the Administration has adopted a position of strict neutrality towards the controversial British plan but a senior White House source contradicted that stance yesterday. Asked whether Mr Clinton and Tony Lake, the President's national security adviser, had leant on Mr Adams during their meeting on Thursday, he said that was

Before that meeting the White House had been embarrassed by reports suggesting the Administration would encourage Mr Adams to accept the British plan, and went to considerable lengths to counter that idea.

3 "fair conclusion".

Mr Adams's meeting with Mr Lake was upgraded into a two-hour lunch. Mr Lake and Nancy Soderberg, the White House Irish affairs expert, took the rare step of escorting Mr Adams to meet reporters outside the West Wing in a gesture designed to reinforce the impression that there had been no pressure.

That evening British and trish reporters were given a briefing to reinforce the assertion that the administration had neither endorsed the British plan nor encouraged Mr Adams to accept it, and that the American role was simply to listen, encourage and offer suggestions that might advance the peace process.

Mr Adams insisted that "this wasn't a meeting about pressure" and the official White House statement did not mention "elections". It said merely that "other ideas" contained in Senator Mitchell's report last week "should be urgently discussed in the political track of the twin-track process".

process".

The issue of elections has divided the British and Irish governments and the Administration is understandably loath to take any public stance that might alienate one side or the other and impair its hardwon reputation for impartiality.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, met Mr Lake on Monday night and Tuesday to argue that elections should be viewed as a "door not a hurdle" to allparty peace talks, and were the only way the unionists could be persuaded to participate short of the IRA beginning to decommission its arsenal.

Mr Adams is adamantly opposed to elections as a precondition for all-party talks and told Irish-American congressmen this week that John Major was merely erecting new barriers to peace.

Simon Jenkins, page 20 Leading article, page 21



The policeman's home in Moy, Co Tyrone with bullet holes in the walls and windows

IRA blamed for gun attack

Continued from page 1
"Everyone in Northern Ireland will now be watching and waiting to see and hear what excuses are made for this wicked attack which robs them of confidence in building the peace process.

"They will expect all those genuinely committed to democratic methods to condemn this attack without reservation. Once again it reminds us all of the need to remove all illegal arms from Northern Ireland," Sir John said.

The Government was care-

ful last night not to link any group with the shooting.

Mitchel McLaughlin, the Sinn Fein chairman, said he was disturbed by the shooting, but he refused to condemn it. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, he said: "I think the timing was very curious whatever intention people had in carrying out that incident. We must hope that it was an

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionists' leader, took part in a round-table discussion with Mitchel McLaughlin, the national chairman of Sinn Fein, pesterday. It was the first time that senior officials of the two parties had shared a public platform. The meeting, on business opportunities in Northern Ireland, took place at the World Economic Summit in Davos, Switzerland.

isolated one." Asked on Radio 4's PM whether he would condemn the shooting. Mr McLaughlin said: "No. I think those who have been conditioned to knee-jerks in these situations haven't really made a contribution to making sure they don't happen again. "The shooting came as the peace process took an important step forward when Sinn Fein and

the Ulster Unionists took part in the World Economic Forum Sir Patrick Maybew, the Northern Ireland Secretary who was in Davos, said: "It think it is a very good thing that common cause should be made explaining what a goood place Northern Ireland is for investment."

The funeral of Gino Gallagher, the reputed leader of the Irish National Liberation Army who was shot dead earlier in the week, passed off peacefully in Belfast yesterday. The RUC allowed the funeral to take place after the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the political wing of the INLA agreed not to mount a paramilitary display. Mourners clashed with the RUC on Thursday when a guard of honour wearing masks and sunglasses tried to accompany Gallagher's coffin.

Simon Jenkins, page 20 Leading article, page 21

Whiskey down drain shows the Americans are serious

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

ANY doubts that I rish politics spans the globe were dispelled this week when the Mayor of San Francisco poured a bottle of fine Ulster whiskey down a drain to protest against allegedly anti-Catholic hiring practices at the distillery.

the distillery.
Old Bushmills Irish Whiskey comes from the village of Bushmills in Co Antrim. In California the company is being embarrassed by claims from Irish Americans that the only Catholies it has employed in recent years are a PR executive and part-time

summer tour guides.

Mayor Willie Brown is the first black person to hold the city's top job, and was a victim of segregation during his

said he "wants to send a statement to the world that, at least as Mayor of San Francisco, he wants justice for all throughout the world, including for Catholics in Ireland."

The Mayor poured the whiskey down the drain in front of an Italian bar at a press conference. Next week a public hearing is to be held and a vote taken on a resolution to require San Francisco's bars to boycott Bushmills whiskey. Thanks to America's second-largest Irish Catholic community after Boston, the resolution is "almost certain to be passed unless Bushmills drags a busload of Protestants to City Hall", says Walter Hinkel, a local columnist who

says he is of Irish origin.
"Fortunately, whiskey drinkers have plenty of brands to choose from. If you're drinking Bushmills, it's like driving a Volkswagen during the Second World War."

The distillery says that 21 per cent of its workforce is Catholic, and is expected to send representatives to next week's hearing. They are likely to receive a rowdy but goodnatured welcome. Nigel Heneghan, spokesman for the Irish Distillers Group, the parent company, said: "The company adopts a completely fair employment policy."

fair employment policy."
In North Antrim at the last election, about 33,600 people voted for Unionist parties and 8,400 for nationalists.

Labour MP bids for New Statesman

Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire Labour MP for Coventry North West, is to become the new owner of the leftwing magazine The New Statesman, which was put into administration last month. Mr Robinson is understood to have offered £500,000 to purchase the title, with the promise of a further £250,000 to help to clear debts.

have offered £500,000 to purchase the title, with the promise of a further £250,000 to help to clear debts.

The weekly title, once the pre-eminent voice of the Left, was placed in administration last month after Philip Jeffrey withdrew day-to-day backing. Mr Robinson's offerhas been provisionally accepted but because the company is in receivership the offer has to be approved by the courts.

Low-level flights call

The families of the victims of the Chinook helicopter accident yesterday called for an end to the Ministry of Defence's use of passenger flights for low-level flying training. At the inquiry into the disaster in which 29 people, mostly anti-terrorism expects, died, the families' solicitor said they had been distressed to learn that their loved ones had been placed at some risk by the flight being used for the purpose.

Gold smuggler jailed

A former constable who recruited his policewoman daughter for a £20 million gold smuggling operation has been jailed for two years. Michael Gilmore, 53, paid Lucy. 25, a pittance in "expenses" to become a criminal. Knightsbridge Crown Court in London was told. Gilmore, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, had earlier admitted conspiracy to cheat by evading VAT due on the smuggled bullion.

Clergyman leaves wife

A senior Church of England dergyman has shocked the Church by announcing that he has left his wife and is living at a friend's house. The Rev David Ford, 58, a former chaptain to the Archbishops of Camerbury and York, broke the news to regular members of the Ripon Cathedral congregation in a two-line letter. He made clear that he and his wife would be living apart for personal reasons.

Chemical firm fined

A chemical company was fined £150,000 with £142,000 costs yesterday after a gas cloud escaped from a factory and caused a massive blaze. Two hundred firefighters tackled the inferno that engulfed Associated Octel's plant in Eliesmere Port on the night of February 1, 1994. Chester Crown Court was fold that the company had pleaded guilty to two charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Brothers on parade

Three brothers will today lead the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. Lieutenant Colonel Schastian Roberts, 42 with Cassian, 34, and Pabian, 23, will be the three commanding officers at the parade by the Irish Guards. It is a coincidence that the brothers are serving in appropriate ranks of the same regiment at a time when public duties fall to the Guards. Today is also Cassian's birthday.

Child sex guide shelved

A sex guide that includes how to find under-age prostitutes abroad is being withdrawn by its British publisher. Sex Havens, a 160 book providing information about foreign bordellos, strip shows and bars, has been available from Scope International of Havering, Hampshire, since 1993. The company said that although it still had copies, the book had been withdrawn.

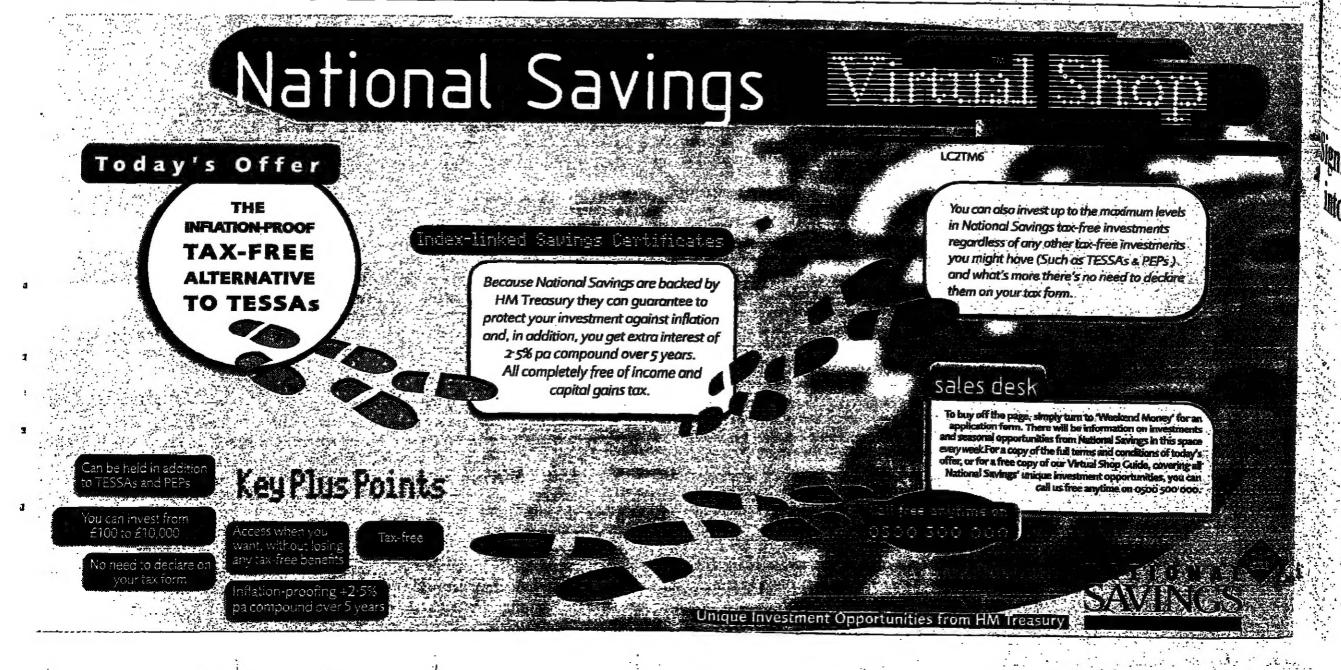
Tourist curbs, page 10

Professor appointed

Quentin Skinner, 55. Professor of Political Science at Cambridge University since 1978, is to be the next Regius Professor of Modern History at the university. He succeeds Professor Patrick Collinson, who is to retire on September 30. Professor Skinner's The Foundations of Modern Political Thought (1978) has been named as one of the 100 most influential books of the past 50 years.

Vauxhall issue recall

About 32,000 Vanzhall Frontera four-wheel drive vehicles are being recalled because of exhaust pipe problems. Vanzhall said an isolated case of exhaust pipe fatigue had been identified in a Frontera and that models produced before January 1995 were being recalled to have protective shields fitted to the tailpipes. The vehicles will also be inspected for any possible faults in the front brake hose.



photicer tells defications poperation Judge allows woman the right to influence life of severely disabled son

Over-protective mother wins fight against jail threat

A MOTHER who was accused of being over-protective towards her severely disabled son won the right yesterday to influence his life. Marjorie Vickers, 54, appealed successfully against a High Court ruling that threatened her with prison if she interfered with her son's freedom to make his own decisions.

Her son Steven, 18, suffers from cerebral palsy, spastic quadriplegia and speech and learning difficulties. His application to prevent his mother's interference in his life was made by the Official Solicitor.

last June, on his behalf.

Mrs Vickers, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was supported in the appeal by her husband, Peter, 57. The couple adopted Steven when he was a baby and discovered he had cerebral palsy when he was one. "I am very pleased with the ruling," Mrs Vickers said outside the High Court. "Now I just want to get back home to

Under the terms of the ruling made by Mr Justice Johnson last June, Mrs Vickers faced jail if she interfered with her son's choice to be a weekly boarder at a special school near the family home. At the original hearing, the court was told that Mrs Vickers was over-protective towards her son and sometimes kept him home from school, saying he was ill, when doctors said he was not. She also resented professional

She would not allow him to

develop socially and was happy for him to sit on a sofa without physical or intellectual stimulation, the court was told. Kirklees District Council. which became involved with the family when Steven was eight, recommended that he should attend the special school where he could experi-ence companionship and be

Mrs Vickers, who wanted to keep Steven at home, had tried to prevent him staying at the school and Steven was eventually taken into care two years ago. The care order was due to run out on his 18th birthday, so the legal action was started on his hehalf.

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the family division of the High Court, sitting with two other appeal judges, said the family could not possibly benefit from action by the court. The threat of an injuction would only put strain on the family and risk destroying the home that Steven loved, he said. Granting the appeal, Sir Stephen said Mrs Vickers now accepted that her son was benefiting from attending the special school.

The prospect of Steven enforcing an injunction against his mother and her ending up jail was appalling. Si Stephen said. It was doubtful whether Steven understood the concept of prison, let alone an injunction, he added. "I have considered this mat-

ter with great care and sympathy because the motives of everyone involved are of the highest - they are all devoted to achieving the best for Steven." he said. "No one doubts that the love that the parents have for this boy and that they wish to make his life better. but the pressures have been The mother has found it

difficult to surrender the care of Stephen to others. There was a period where she frustrated the attendance of Stephen at a special school. Nobody has ever criticised the devotion of the parents or suggested that there is any



Marjorie Vickers wanted to keep her son at home instead of sending him to school

question of ill treatment or neglect. This is a case where the devotion of a mother has been so intense that it has not been possible to look after Stephen's development in a way that is appropriate, by him going to this school." Sir Stephen said Parliament

might like to clarify the legal

rights of people who are severely physically disabled but are not mentally impaired. Despite his disabilities, including the ability to speak only a few words, Stephen is mentally capable, according to the law.

The ruling to allow the appeal and discharge the injunction, was supported by Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Morritt. After the ruling Stephen Switalski, the mily solicitor, said: "It was an extremely sensitive; moving judgment and everyone is delighted and relieved."

Hard sell takes fringe theatre into West End

A LITTLE-KNOWN fringe theatre company made its debut in the West End last night thanks to its members' success in making money while "resting".

Counterpoint's production of The Long and the Short and the Tall by Willis Hall was transferred at short notice to the Albery Theatre in the West End after only three performances in a converted church in Britton, south

Counterpoint, formed in 1994 by three graduates of the Webber Douglas Drama School, funds itself from the success of a telesales company which its members established to employ out-of-work

Ian Francis, Counterpoint's commercial director, said yes-terday: "We realised we need-ed to do something more profitable than bike deliveries or working behind bars while resting, so we formed our own telesales company, Profes-sional Communicators, We. are now making £100,000 a

Mr Francis added: "Actors are much more persuasive and intelligent than the usual double-glazing salesman. We have two contracts with conference organisers and we do a lot of telephone canvassing. Our results are often three times better than customers have had before, so they are:

delighted."
When producer Bill Ken-

wright, prompted by a review of Counterpoint's previous production in The Times, wanted to transfer The Long and the Short and the Tall at short notice, the move was possible, Mr Francis said. because when we say we have the money to do some-thing people will know it is there."

Professional Communica tors now employs 16 resting actors, while Counterpoint's founders. Simon Lenagar.
Adam Maggido and Phil
Pickard are all in the cast of
The Long and the Short and
the Tall with Mark Arden and Burt Kwouk, established actors the company could only attract and pay because of Professional Communica-

tors' profits. Tony Doherty of the Brixton Shaw Theatre, for-merly St Matthew's Parish Church, said: "Counterpoint were only here for three weeks but we know we will be makes sense for Bill Kenwright, who had a theatre dark. This was a well set-up production that could be

moved quickly."

More than 5,000 tickets have been sold for The Long and the Short and the Tall at the Albery, where it will have a 42-week run. The play was first staged in 1959. Its author Keith Waterhouse on many

HISKEY

Yard officer tells of infiltrating drugs operation

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SCOTLAND YARD officer who helped to foil a huge drugs operation has described how he posed for nine months as a drugs smuggler.

The officer was involved in Operation Dash, aimed at a criminal "entrepreneur", Bobby Mills, who was eventually jailed for 112 years for a plot to smuggle cannabis worth

It was the first co-ordinated operation involving police. Customs and Excise, the Royal Navy, and specialist troops. Mills, a former bookmaker, had been sentenced to ten years in 1981 for taking part in a cannabis ring.

Using the name "Michael", the police officer intiltrated a gang which planned to use a merchant boat to import cannabis from Morocco. The Poseidon was to rendezvous in the Atlantic in the summer of 1993 with a smaller vessel, the Delvan. The drugs would be distributed in England in bogus fish vans.

The detective sergeant said: "I flew to Ireland and we went 600 miles out into the North Atlantic to meet the main ship. We transferred on board six tonnes of cannabis. We were on a small fishing boat hitting against the Atlantic swells and we were also hitting against the other ship which was five

times as big as ours."

He said: "The crew of the main ship were casting blocks of carmabis weighing 50lb they were throwing them from their decks to ours. We had punctures on the deck surface and the engine room started to

The policeman watched as they kept piling stuff on the deck and we were trying to stack it up but after a while we had so much deck damage we decided that we weren't going to take any more".

The cannabis was offloaded in Littlehampton, West Sussex. "Michael" said: "As we were leaving we could hear the arrest-attack team going in the armed police scenario and everything else. The villains were all taken on the quay."

The policeman's orders were to ring Mills once the drugs were landed. Mills was west London restauran with his girlfriend when the call for payment came through. The criminal, unaware he had been trapped. said he would pay within 36 hours. Police arrested him as he finished his meal.

The Poseidon was boarded and captured after a chase by three Royal Navy ships carry-ing Special Boat Service teams. They were dropped on the ship by helicopter.

The undercover officer was taken to a safe place after the operation. Afterwards, he had found it very difficult to get back to reality.
"Michael" told his story in

an internal Yard magazine The Metropolitan Journal. which discloses that the volunteer undercover officers worked on 384 operations last year which led to 474 arrests.

Wildfowler shoots pet goose by mistake

By PETER FOSTER

A WILDFOWLER was try-ing to placate an entire vil-lage yesterday after he mistakenly bagged Horace.

its pet goose.
Steve Davies, 36, was out with his gun at dusk when he mistook Horace for a wild greylag flying behind a flock of ducks and shot it.

"But it was only the next day I realised it was Horace. I was mortified because used to take my little girl along the river to feed him. If I had known it was him I would never have pulled the trigger," he said.

Mr Davies immediately went down to the village of wark in Nor apologise to local people vho had taken Horace, a after he used to rummage for food in children's pockets when they stopped to stroke him on nature walks.

One resident said: "Some people have told him never to darken the village again." Another said it was a disgrace that the much loved goose had been killed for sporting pleasure.

June Walker said: "He once disappeared for six weeks and the village was in turmoil because we thought be had flown away. Then one day he came sailing down the river with a dozen ducklings in a line behind him."

Mr Davies has decided to go on a Caribbean holiday while village tempers cool.

AT JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY, sturdy barrelmen and charred oak barrels are a big part of our whiskey's smoothness.

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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Signing kicks Dallaglio into the Midas touch

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO. who today earns his fourth England rugby cap, yesterday signed up with the same agents who turned Anthea Turner from a £50,000-a-year telepision face to a household. television face to a household

From now on the 23-year-old Wasps captain and flank-er, whose torso can already be imagined wrapped in Pringle cashmere and whose jawhone is made for an aftershave commercial, will be master-minded by James Grant Munagement. The agency is run by Russ Lindsay and Miss Turner's husband, Peter Pnwell, the former disc jockey.

Dallaglio, who is studying at Kingston University, south London, for a degree in urban estate management, will join a client list that includes Philip Schofield, the television pre-senter Caron Keating, the Radio I DJ Mark Goodier. and Zoe Ball, who took over from Gaby Roslin on Channel 's The Big Breakfast.

why him? Because



Dallaglio: his earnings could reach £500,000

"Lawrence is a really intelli-gent guy." Mr Lindsay said. "He comes over as a very clean-cut. sensible young man. But more than that, he performs brilliantly on the field. He is a thinking rugby

He will soon be a jolly rich one, too, Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott are the big earners of rughy. But with the

sport having turned profes-sional, and with Carling and Guscott likely to bow out in a few years, Dallaglio stands to become rugby's biggest money-maker by the time of the 1999 Rugby World Cup. If he continues to shine as brightly on the field as he does today. Dallaglio could be earning £500,000 a year by the turn of the century. His annual England salary of £34,000 could swell to about \$100,000

in a couple of years, topped up by an equal salary from his club. Sponsorship deals — he already wears Nike boots and television appearances

should make up the rest.

"Lawrence is not money grabbing in the slightest," Mr Lindsay said. "The last thing he is thinking is. 'How can I get another £100,000 out of a sponsor? It's what we don't do for Lawrence that will be as important for him in the long run as what we do do. If you get too high-profile 100 quickly, you create antagonism in

Five nations, pages 46-48



THE SUNDAY TIMES **Test** of time



I collect my books and head off for my first lesson. I feel very nervous, yet I dimly recall this sensation: it's being a new boy. and it's not a sensation that, as a married 33-year-old with two sons, I expected to experience

What would it feel like to go back to school? David Mills, posing as a sixth-former, finds out - The Sunday Times tomorrow

again ... 9

Vice-chancellors back down from threat to impose levy as Shephard offers peace talks

Universities defer decision on £300 entrance charge

By David Charter. Education correspondent

VICE-CHANCELLORS stepped back from voting yes terday on proposals to charge university entrants £300 after an eleventh-hour offer of talks from Gillian Shephard.

The university chiefs left their threat of an entry fee for undergraduates in 1997 on the table ahead of a meeting with the Education and Employment Secretary on Tuesday.

Mrs Shephard's offer was made the evening before the vice-chancellors' emergency meeting in London yesterday when the 104 academics agreed the plan should be put to their governing bodies.

The national executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is still recommending a fee be brought in if planned cuts in funding go ahead and this year's 37 per cent drop in capital funding at least par-tially restored. The vice-chancellors' main aim is to reform

the funding system so that student loans can be paid back according to their income once they have graduated and are

it emerged yesterday that ministers are considering a major inquiry into the financing of universities. But the vice-chancellors are hoping for more immediate action which may come in the form of a Green Paper on higher education. Mrs Shephard's own year-long review of it is due to report soon.

If all Mrs Shephard has to offer is another review, she will further antagonise the universities. One leading vicechancellor said yesterday: We are not going to have any truck with a major study which kicks everything into touch until after the next election. The idea they want to start all over again is just

Professor Gareth Roberts.

committee chairman and Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield, said after yesterday's meeting he would be seeking signs of compromise from Mrs Shephard. Professor Roberts said: "In the absence of a long-term solution all universities are forced to continue to explore all possible options including the registration levy."

He continued: "Our recom mendation is that the levy really is a last resort. It would only be triggered if the Gov-ernment cut us back yet again next November. We are seekpolitical parties that this huge expansion in higher education has just got to be paid for."

Yesterday's meeting was held up for an hour when 50 student protesters from the Campaign for Free Education burst in and demanded to air their views on how the education system should be publicly funded. However, the Nat-



Vice-chancellors discussing their plans yesterday. They dismissed a further review into funding as laughable

ional Union of Students welcomed the move to postpone a decision on a levy.

Jim Murphy, union presi-dent, said: We are furious that universities have been forced to make such threats because of savage government cuts but we cannot accept that students should provide the missing funds. The maximum student grant next year will be El.710, so asking students to pay £300 for the right to study would be a considerable at-

tack on their funds." Vicechancellors leaving yesterrelieved that a vote on fees was avoided. They fear it would have divided them and led to splits with students, parents and lecturers. Many agree fees are inevitable if the funding system is not reformed.

ve Booth, Vice-Chancellor at Oxford Brookes University, said: "If the Government was unable to give us a proper funding system then I think

some universities would have to break away and charge substantial top-up fees just to maintain the quality of what they do. I think that would be very sad because some people would not then be able to go the university of their choice."

The call for action came as

the Liberal Democrats' plans for financing post-school edu-cation were leaked in the Times Educational Supplement yesterday. Don Foster, Liberal Democrat education spokesman, will call for long term loans so students can loan would be repaid through the tax or national insurance

Vice-chancellors were also privately incensed by John Major's remarks on Tuesday that university funding had risen by 23 per cent in real terms over the past five years. In the same period, student numbers rose by 50 per cent to

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about salting

away a few

SCOTTISH AMELARIE IS REST LATED BY THE PERSONAL PLYESTIMENT ALTHORITY.

School's common room is in a pub

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A SCOTTISH school has established its sixth-form amon room in a pub.

Pupils from Balfron High in Central region are pop-ping into their local, the Pirn. Inn. to relax, listen to music and watch television between lessons. The idea came from a member of the school board, a Tory councillor, after overcrowding at the school, a popular compre-hensive, meant there was no

Jim Fleming, the school's rector, discussed the matter be supervised but teachers are adamant that pupils will

Pupils have to sign a pledge promising to abide by school rules, which forbid smoking and drinking, before they can use the room. Robert Cranston, the pub's landlord, whose daughter Rowan, 17, attends the school. said: "We're very strict about not serving under-age drink-ers. There is no question of them sitting in the bar sup-ping a pint."

Helen Liddell, Labour's

Scottish spokeswoman on education, said she had some reservations about the scheme. "It seems so bizarre that with all the concerns there are about drugs and alcohol that the school should choose to do this. I think most parents would be worried about their teenage children being in a

licensed premises."

Sandy Kelso, depute rector at Balfron High, said he knew the people who ran the pub and believed his pupils

Mother's home at risk over school fees

EDUCATION EDITOR

A LEADING independent school is trying to make a single mother sell her home to pay her son's outstanding fees after the break-up of he marriage.

Irene Doherty, a restaurant manageress from Gatley, near Stockport, is being sued for £8,000 in unpaid school and legal fees accumulated since her son Julian was asked to leave Cheadle Hulme School on the borders of Greater

four years ago. A county court judge will decide next month whether Mrs Doberty has to sell the three-bedroom house she has occupied for 19 years to meet a debt which she claims is her former husband's responsibility. If the action is successful, the family will have to leave the £90,000 house within

Mrs Doherty's 15-year marriage to Nader Kohanzad, a stationery manufacturer in Oldham, was over when Julian entered the £3,500-a-year school. By the beginning of 1992 his fees were four terms in arrears and Julian, who is now 18, transferred to a comprehensive school.

Alan Godfrey, Cheadle Hulme's bursar, said the school had no choice but to pursue Mrs Doherty for the debt because she had enrolled her son. We do not lightly kick someone out of their home but there comes a point when there is no other way to

recover the money."

Mrs Doherty said:
"Cheadle Hulme are more than prepared to make me and my family homeless. It looks like we are going to be forced onto the streets. We could end up in a hostel."

MI6 advice stops academic's book.

BY ROBIN YOUNG

CAMBRIDGE University Press has refused to publish an anthropological study after receiving advice from M16 that it could provoke terrorist attacks against its staff and university members in

Two senior members of the

CUP's anthropological editori-

al board have resigned in protest at the decision, claiming that it represents unacceptable academic censorship. Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood is an ethnographic study of villages in northern Greece by Anastasia Karakasidou, a Greek-born writer. It contradicts the official Greek line that there is no Slavo-

Macedonian minority there. Dr Karakasidou received death and rape threats after publishing a similar study two years ago, claiming that a Slavonic language is spoken in the area and that people consider themselves Macedonian and not Greek. The issue is central to Greece's dispute with the neighbouring repub-lic of Macedonia, part of the

former Yugoslavia. CUP's governing body of senior univ-ersity academics, the Press Syndicate, decided unanimously not to publish her new book after officials had requested a "terrorist threat assessment" from the British Embassy in Athens and from the CUP's chief salesman in

Greece, Craig Walker. The resulting memorandum prepared by Jessica Kuper, a CUP executive, spoke of a "moral imperative" not to publish, saying it was impossible to discount the embassy's warning that "publication might put at risk the lives of press staff in Athens, and of Cambridge University personnel in Greece".

The two anthropology editorial board members who have resigned are Professor Michael Herzfeld, of Harvard University, and Professor Ste-phen Gudeman, of the University of Minnesota. Professor Herzield said the decision reject the book "represents a unacceptable restriction of academic freedom".

par later

I'm over the moon, says rocket man celebrating lift-off

, Half a minute puts Britain back into amateur space race

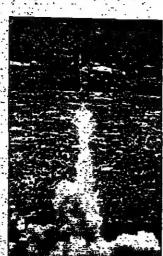
STEVE BENNETT'S attempt to become the first amateur to put a rocket into space took a giant leap forward yesterday with the successful launch of Starchaser 2

Mr Bennett had been working hard to make up the ground lost to rivals in Austraia and America, after motor failure left the rocket smoking on the launchpad in an at-tempt three months ago. So he was relieved to see his craft powered by a solid fuel derivative of weedkiller and sugar,

"It was difficult to keep a stiff upper lip as I counted down," he said afterwards. "I was very emotional. If I was to continue, this had to work. A lot of things were riding on that rocket, but it was absolutely brilliant. I could not have asked for it to go better."

drama as he halted the countdown only four seconds before ignition, saying that he could hear an aircraft overhead. Moments later, the count was on again and the slim, grey projectile was flying straight up, above the Army's firing ranges at Otterburn.

At 21ft, it was the largest home-made rocket in Europe.



A success from lift-off, left, to landing, right — how the Starchaser 2 worked in Northumberland yesterday. All that is left now is to lengthen the time in between

The purpose of the launch was culmination of 15 months hard to test propulsion systems. parachutes and computers.
Although it was travelling at

450mph, it seemed to move with a slow grace into the sky. Mr Bennett, 31, a laboratory technician for a toothpaste. manufacturer near his home in Dukinfield, Manchester, said: "I was over the moon, if that's not too much of a cliche. Now I am on target to overhaul the opposition and be the first amateur into space within

the next 12 months. It is the

work by a lot of people." artillery firing over the 70,000 acres of the rolling windswept

ranges in the Cheviot Hills. Unlike his last trial in a field in mission control had been the bottom of a dry-stone wall, this time he had the use of concrete bunker with steel shutters over the observation slits. Nearby a burger van, thoughtfully provided by his

sponsors Tate & Lyle, sold hot coffee and bacon sandwiches to the chilled press corps and

During its flight, the rocket was barely visibly against snow-covered hills, but its bright yellow flame and almost white trail of smoke marked its path almost 2,000ft

Momentarily it was lost in the cloud, but then it could be seen arcing over as the motors shut down and gravity exerted its pull. Starchaser separated

was consternation as the chute on the larger, first stage appeared not to open, but soon after, its fluorescent red and blue canopy filled and both stages dropped to earth within feet of each other half-a-mile away. In all, the flight had asted just 30 seconds.

Adrienne, Mr Bennett's wife leased for him, Steve had today." She has allowed him nents spread over the dining table and lounge floor. Mr Bennett has been a

elevision. He now plans to build Starchaser 3, almost double the size of the current rocket, for the attempt on outer space, technically 50 miles up. After two or three test firings, he expects to reach for the stars next year. But it will not be in Britain.

"Sadly there is nowhere here we can go that high and it on someone's head," he said "I shall have to look for a

Leading article, page 21



Steve Bennett runs for cover before take-off:

Reaching for stars rather than cash

BY NICK NUTTALL

YESTERDAY'S successful rocket launch still puts Steve Bennett a long way from the \$10 million prize offered by an anonymous businessman for the first amateur to put two human beings into orbit. But most enthusiasts say the prize is irrelevant: they are reaching for the stars rather than for cash.

The Tripoli Rocketry Association, formed in the 1960s by hobbyists from three including Mr Bennett, who said yesterday that he be-lieved he now led the pack in

greatest recorded height for an amateur rocket is 38,000ft, achieved recently by Frank Kosdon, of Ventu-

ing with superlatives about Mr Bennett's achievement

describing it as pretty good. Unlike the United States and Australia, rocketry in Britain had been held back by the Government and police because of fears of terrorism. he said. A sugarbased fuel like that used in Starchaser 2 was old-fashit is cheap." Some enthus iasts now used ammonium perchlorate, the solid fuel

Stabbed PC died 11 years later

A KNIFE wound inflicted on a police officer as he tackled an armed robber led to his death

almost 11 years inquest heard yesterday.

PC George Hammond survived the stabbing in 1985 after operations which needed transfusions of 300 pints of blood but he never fully recovered. He eventually died from a heart attack brought on by sentenced to mine years youth custody at the Old Bailey.

The coroner, Sir Montague

Coroner's Court that PC Hammond had to have his right kidney removed and his left kidney never functioned prop-

erly again.

This had led to chronic

heart problems culminating in a heart attack and kidney failure shortly before his death in King's College Hospital on December 13 last year. Dr Shepherd said all the problems could be attributed to the stabbing. PC Hammond's widow Angela, 54, told the court that her husband had communal nightmares about

the incident. The former army athlete could no longer run and had difficulty in walking.

The coroner, Sir Montague Levine, said he had no doubt the stomach wounds inflicted by the 10in knife, which he Gladiator's sword," had contributed to the former officer's death at the age of 58.

He recorded a verdict that

he died from complications which followed severe injuries he sustained whilst making an Don Ratcliffe, of the Police

arrest on 23 January, 1985." Federation, said after the inquest: The coroner is restricted by the law but his verdict can be translated as unlawful killing by any other name."

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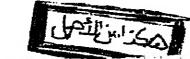
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Stolen items include a silver model of an officer; a picture of Queen Mary in a Faberge frame; a George II silver chalice; cutlery marked by this George III crest; Chinese figures of pheasants; and a pair of Derby glazed dishes

Kents offer reward for antiques stolen from their home



By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Duke and Duchess of Kent are offering a "substantial" reward for the recovery of antiques stolen from their Oxfordshire home, police said yesterday. The 22 stolen pieces, mostly silverware and porcelain, are thought to be worth £50,000.

These are items of great historical

and sentimental value. Some of

Some are beautiful in their own right," Nicholas Adamson, the Duke and Duchess's private secretary, said, adding that the couple were "upset, as anybody who's been burgled would be".

Among the stolen items is a three-coloured gold Faberge photograph frame with inset jade stones holding a blurred picture of Queen Mary. The arched frame was made by the St Petersburg artisan Victor Aarne at the turn of the century.

Other stolen items include a

George II silver chalice, a George III dessert knife and a rare pair of Derby glazed sweetmeat dishes. A collection of six snuff boxes was taken, including a Swiss gold box from around 1840 with the letter "G" engraved below a royal

crown and a Geneva box with an

French occupation of Geneva. The most colourful piece is a pair of Chinese export figures of pheasants on rockwork bases, the plumage in famille rose enamels from the Qianlong period (1736-95).

Thames Valley Police would not disclose the exact sum to be paid out but said the Duke and Duchess would be "generous". Burglars broke into the couple's

mansion in the hamlet of Crocker End through a window at about 5am on Monday and set off alarms. Police soon arrived but the burglars had escaped with the antiques. The Duke and Duchess were not there at the time.

Caroline Wakeford, of the Art Loss Register, which is co-operating with the police, said the antiques were probably abroad after having been sold to a handler.

. Gas-cooled fridge marks victory for green lobby

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's leading fridge makers announced yesterday it was switching its entire production to ozonefriendly chemicals.

Elstar, which supplies pubs and clubs, is believed to be the first maker of commercial fridges in the world to switch. gas cooled cabinets. It marks a victory in a long-running battle between some of the chemical giants and

green groups.

ICI, which with Dupont; is the biggest maker of coolants for fridges, has ridiculed claims by environmentalists that such a fridge could be produced. In 1992 ICT described a fridge based on gases such as propare, and isobutane as pie in the sky and added: "Can we all go. back to the laboratory and spend the next ten years working on Greenpeace ideas to see if they can be made to work in practice?"

But the move by Elstar has vindicated Greenpeace. Yesterday John Gummer, the Environment Secretary and Lord Melchett, executive director of Greenpeace UK, the celebrations at Elstar's factory in Castle Donington in Leicestershire. Mr Gummer said: This sort of development is an

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example of the benefits that can be gained by seeking solutions which meet longterm economic, technical and environmental objectives - in a phrase by developing sus-

tainable technology." Elstar's decision comes four years after the European Community agreed to ban chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs), fridge coolants that have been damaging the ozone layer, under the Mozireal Protocol.

Big chemical companies an-nounced they had developed hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). But these gases also damage the ozone layer or are global warming gases.

Hydracarbon refrigeration, is useffeby Histor, was devel-ted in the 1930s but ignored. Greenpeace, alerted to the technology, backed an alling Bast German fridge company to build ten prototype "Greenfreeze" fridges.

By 1994 many German ing a limited range of such fridges but British industry initially failed to grasp the

A spokesman for ICI said gas-cooled refrigerants that were suitable only for sealed fridge systems and not for domestic fridges.



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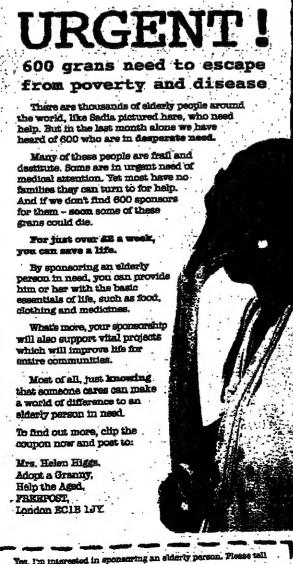
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Catholics seek to canonise English misfit who devoted himself to the sick

Lepers' aide may become first saint of Zimbabwe

A CAMPAIGN to canonise the son of a High Anglican parson martyred for his devotion to a leper colony in the African bush has gathered pace with the publication of

the first book of his poetry.
Thousands of pilgrims make their way each year to an imposing black granite cross atop a 1,000ft rock to pay homage and pray for miracles in the name of John Bradburne, an Englishman who was shot dead 16 years ago in the Rhodesian civil war.

Bradburne, born in 1921 in Cumberland and variously a bearded misfit, minstrel, poet, Catholic convert and monk, is widely expected to become Zimbabwe's first saint. For the last ten years of his life he devoted himself to caring for lepers in the isolated Mutemwa settlement, 90 miles

Since his death, friends of the "saintly vagabond" have claimed a host of miracles and

other illnesses. One follower has a video recording of the sunset above Mutemwa where the sun emerges in the shape of the Virgin Mary. Swarms of bees, a frequent occurrence in the area, are said to carry his healing spirit.

The Catholic Herald said last week: "Many people see him as the country's first saint and his claims are being pushed by a cult of followers in Britain and Zimbabwe." The John Bradburne Memori-Society is collating the miracle claims in its campaign for beatification — the first

step to canonisation. The welfare charity, set up in 1987 to raise funds for the remaining lepers of Mutemwa, published a book of his poems called Songs of the Vagabond. Bradburne wrote six or seven poems each day, with his work forming a poetic

Professor David Crystal, the book's editor, said it represented only a sample of BradHis work ranges from doggerel to sonnets and meandering 10,000-line, epic verse.

Theological insight and striking nature descriptions sit alongside the realities of poverty and disease. Everything is expressed in language which is remarkable for its vivid images and joyous word play. Reading John Bradburne is a an uplifting experience."

Bradburne was baptised an Anglican but converted to the Catholic faith in 1947. An early brush with death proved a seminal experience. He was lost for some weeks in the jungle while serving as a Gurkha officer in the Far East during the Second World War. He became a drifter, holding down a series of jobs from school master, junior sacristan at Westminster Cathedral and minstrel to "self-confessed vagabond". He tried unsuc-

cessfully to become a monk. At the age of 40, he wrote to his friend John Dove, a fellow asking if there was a cave where he could live a life of prayer. He spent eight years in Salisbury working for the

His followers say it was only in 1969 that he discovered his real purpose in life. On a visit to the remote region of Mtoko he came across a colony of lepers, whose squalld living conditions so horrified him that he decided to stay. For ten years Bradburne

engaged in a running battle with the mission authorities to feed and clothe the lepers. His biography, Strange Vaga-bond of God, says he "bathed them, fed them and buried them. In 1973 he fell out with the Rhodesian Leprosy Associ-ation for being troublesome. was sacked as colony warden and went to live in a tin hut. From here he continued to care for his "flock."

When civil war broke out Bradburne refused to heed government warnings to leave the country. One night in 1979,



John Bradburne cared for lepers in Africa for ten years before he was shot dead by guerrillas in 1979

seized by a group of "bandits." He was taken into the bush and subjected to a mock trial. The next day Patriotic Front guerrillas shot him in the back as he knelt in prayer. Nicholas Coote, assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Con-

ference, said Bradburne appeared to be an ideal prospect for beatification. It falls to the church authorities in Zimbabwe to press his case.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3



Looking after the earth helps divine purpose

Julian Jacobs

THE Jewish New Year for Trees, which falls on Monsigns of spring. In modern Israel this semi-festival is associated with agricultur-al development of the coun-try and afforestation. Both there and in the Diaspora children will plant saplings

on that day.

Tree-planting is also cele-brated in this country. In many cultures trees are regarded as a symbol of life and vitality, and their protection is a mark of our relationship with nature. The affinity man feels

with nature has been taken by religious thinkers to point to the existence of a creator. Even a leaf has a beauty and symmetry that suggests that it could not have come into being by chance. The biblical writers had no doubt that the order idence of the workings of

an omnipotent God. In recent years the danger of damage to the envi-ronment has seeped into our consciousness. We now

speak about environmental ethwhich we are depleting the

polluting: the earth. We realise

inexhaustible and that we have to plan for what is called sustainable growth. tion of the environment is

Concern for the protecfound in the opening chap-ters of the Bible. Genesis describes how God brought order into chaos and how all created things were formed according to their kind. It tells us that man was placed in the Garden of Eden to till and to guard it. Nowadays the whole world is man's Garden of Eden which he is to tend and guard. We understand that where God has made order we should not make chaos.

There is a conflict of interests here. Genesis also tells us that man is to have dominion over the earth and to subdue it. The earth has a valid claim to be free of man's manipulation, but on the other hand the world was also created for man. We are called upon to strike a balance between exploita-

tion and conservation. According to the biblical ethic, nature is not sacred in itself. The raw and imperfect state in which the world has been created enables us to be God's partners and to use the achievements of modern science and technology to develop and improve our planet. Such developments contribute towards the fulfil-

ment of the divine purpose for may not be able to fathom that purpose fully, but Isaiah's perception that the world was created not as a waste but to be inhabited is surely pivotal. In the final

analysis we can ignore his message only to the detriment of humanity and of the world that is our

nome.

□ Dr Julian Jacobs is the rabbi of Ealing Synagogue and the Chief Rabbi's rep resentative on interfaith relationships

Wedding couples groom the church

a village church will look nice they belong. being asked to mow the churchyard or paint fences.

The Rev Michael Hatchett, vicar of the 12th-century St Peter's church at Great Totham, Essex, puts the Idea to prospective brides and bridegrooms after talking to them about marriage and fixing the day. Nobody has ever refused. Mr Hatchett, 46.

said: "I think they feel pleased

COUPLES can be certain that they can play a part. They feel

ples a year. Tim Wyman, 35, a sales manager, and Linda Wyman, 36, a physiotherapist, were the first "volunteers". cutting the grass and weeding flowerbeds. She said: "A friend approached her vicar and was made to go to confirmation classes. That would be dreadful." They now have two children, both christened

THE

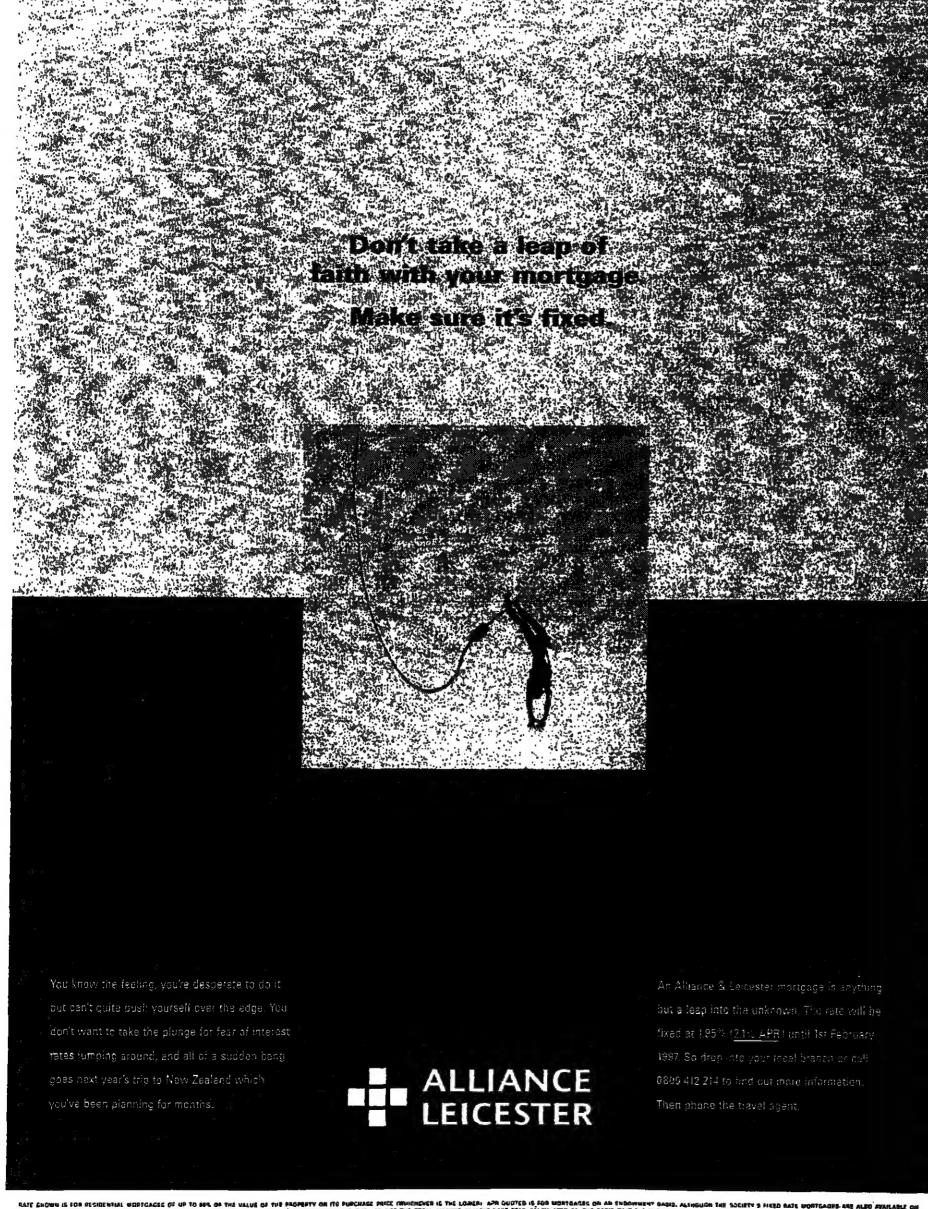
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Bon appenr.



earth he ine pun

Doctor had cleared attacker

Ten life terms for misogynist who stabbed shoppers

By A STAFF REPORTER

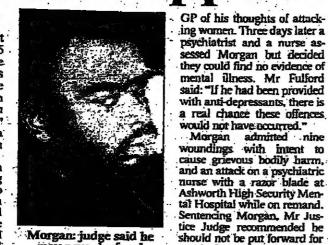
A RELEASED mental patient who slashed the throats of 15 women in a department store was given 10 life sentences yesterday. Two months before the rampage, David Morgan had visited his GP to complain of renewed "evil thoughts" about attacking women, but a psychiatrist could find no sign of illness.

Morgan, 31, took a 12in servated butcher's boning knife and a kitchen knife into the Rackhams store in Birmingham city centre and made attacks at random in the cosmetics, handbag and jewellery departments, packed with Christmas shoppers in December 1994.

Birmingham Crown Court was told that Morgan had travelled by bus from his home in Aston, pushing and kicking two female shoppers outside the store before entering at 10.15am. Starting in the cosmetics department, he swiped at the neck of an assistant, Debbie Gilbert.

Alistair McCreath, QC, for the prosecution, said another victim, Jan Twining, was browsing in the cards department when he grabbed her. shoulder, turned her head, brought the knife across her throat and said: There's

another one". Two female security officers were injured as they tried to help customers. Morgan was finally halted by Sergeant Jim Lavery and Kevin Hart, a civilian scenes-of-crimes officer, who ordered him to put down his weapon, then rugbytackled him to the floor.



with anti-depressants, there is

woundings with intent to

Ashworth High Security Men-

parole for 12 years, and told

him: "You must be detained

until you cease to represent a

risk to public safety. If that

A defence application for

further reports to see if he

could be detained in a psychi-

atric hospital was refused.

time never comes, so be it."

would not have occurred."

Morgan: judge said he may never be freed

who had been cut were in fear for their lives. Others were so frightened that they had lost the power to walk."

The court heard that Morgan had a history of schizo-phrenia, depression and psychotic disorders after his father's death in 1988. That year, he was admitted to All Saints Psychiatric Hospital, Birmingham, after attacking a female shopworker. He had a conviction for shoplifting.

After two months he was released with directions that he should receive support from the community psychiatric team and continue a course Adrian Fulford, QC, for Morgan. It appears from the records that effectively there was no follow up at all.

In 1992 and 1993, Morgan was conditionally discharged for two incidents when he kicked women in the shins. On Mr McCreath said: "Those September 30, 1994; he told his

Thomas Galster and Paula Dixon embracing in Hong Kong yesterday nine months after her

Wedding for tourist saved by inflight op

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A WOMAN whose life was saved by emergency surgery 35,000ft up on a flight from Hong Kong was married in the colony yesterday.

Two surgeons who were travelling on the British Air-ways jumbo last May set up a makeshift operating theatre. Using a coathanger, a plastic mineral water bottle, sticky tape, a catheter tube and cognac to sterilise the implements, Professor Angus Wallace, who is based in Nottingham, and Dr Tom Wong, based in Dundec, repaired Paula Dixon's col-

lapsed lung. Yesterday Mrs Dixon, 39, who is from Newcastle upon Tyne and is divorced with three children, married Thomas Galster, 31, a German who manages a factory

after they first met. They were in a motorcycle crash last May as they drove to the airport. Mrs Dixon walked away from the acci-dent, thinking she had only

MoD opens former spying base to offers

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the market in April, a spin-off. The rapidly developing Al-MI bases in Suffolk. They left berous future as an international freight distribution centre.

lan Hudson, of Bidwells in-Cambridge, the agents who will prepare a marketing campaign, said yesterday that he thought the airfield might

field at Alconbury Canstive developers. It is at the bridgeshive once home to the junction of the East Midlands U2 spy plane, is to be sold by and East Anglia two of the the Ministry of Defence. fastest growing regions in The 1,100 acres size will go on Britain, at the eastern end of

container port in Britain. RAF Alcombury was estabbomber base during the Secand World War. The Americans took over in 1942, and the gars and bunkers. The USAF.



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Widow's defeat in battle for Bart's

By IAN MURRAY

THE last legal battle to save Britain's oldest hospital was lost yesterday when the High Court ruled that the decision to shut it was lawful.

A judge dismissed a challenge by an 81-year-old widow. who had claimed that the con-sultation process leading up to the decision to close St Bartholemew's Hospital, near Smithfield Market in London, was farally flawed and thus illegal.

She had applied for a judicial review of the closure decision made by the local health authority and Virginia Bottomley, who was Health Secretary at the time.

Mr Justice Latham ruled that the consultation was properly conducted and that the decision to close Bart's and transfer its work to the Royal London Hospital at Whitechapel, also in east London. was "the most advantageous option in financial terms".

He added: "If the decision stands, it spells the end of a great teaching hospital which has served the City of London

for over 800 years." Monica Willan, who lives in sheltered housing on the Peabody Estate round the corner from the hospital, admitted after the judgment that she would now have to give up her personal fight to save Bart's.

"The battle may be lost but the war isn't over," she said. "I think I have got to the end of my usefulness and I'm too bloody old to carry on. But I am sure lots of others will take up the cause.

She said she could no longer walk round the corner to get treatment for her arthritis but had not so far travelled to the Royal London for help. "The very idea of going all that way makes me feel rather ill."

In his 15-page ruling, the judge said the "controversial report recommending clo-sure had been opposed by 98.6 per cent of those consulted. However, the East London and City Health Authority had concluded that the health of people in its area could best be improved by concentrating Losing candidate pledges: 'We are going to be a serious national party'

By-election failure forces Scargill into hasty relaunch

ARTHUR SCARGILL will renew his campaign to gather support for the breakaway Socialist Labour Party next week despite a poor showing at the Hemsworth by-election. The miners' leader and other SLP members are to hold public meetings across the country to boost membership ahead of the party's formal launch on May I. Members will also be invited to a conference in London in early March to devise a manifesto. Yesterday a defiant Brenda Nixon, the SLP candidate who narrowly avoided losing her

deposit after receiving 1,193 votes, said it had been a "brilliant" result. "It was a vote of no confidence in the new Labour party," she said. last, they said we would lose our deposit, but we proved them wrong on both counts," Labour's candidate, Jon

Trickett, won easily with 15,817 votes, more than 70 per cent of the vote, reducing the Government's Commons majority to

Ms Nixon, a former campaigner against pit closures, said about 1,000 people had joined the party during the campaign, many of them de-fecting from Labour. "We are



Trickett: won with more than 70 per cent of vote

a serious party and we are going to be a national party." She said the party had not yet decided whether to contest the forthcoming Staffordshire South East by-election.

The Conservatives ye day claimed the result fell far short of a ringing endorsement of Labour. Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, said the low turnout -

enthusiasm for Labour is probably the single most important thing that came out of he told BBC Radio.

Tony Blair said the victory was an indication of the appeal of new Labour. "It's the highest percentage of the vote that we've got in this Parliament and I think it shows not merely the disillusionment with the Conservatives, but also the strength and

appeal of new Labour."

John Prescott said the miners in the West Yorkshire constituency had given Mr Scargill "a substantial thumbs down" despite his promise to reopen pits.

Result: Jon Trickett (Lab) 15,817; Norman Hazell (Con) 1.942; David Ridgway (Lib Dem) 1,516; Brenda Nixon (SLP) 1,193: Lord David Sutch (Monster Raving Loony) 652: Peter Davies (UK Independence) 455; Peggy Alexander (Green) 157; Mark Thomas Mark Thomas Fri Nights Channel 4) 122; Michael Cooper (National Democrat) III; Dianne Leighton (Natural Law) 28. Labour majority 13.875. Turnout 39.46 per cent Swing 5.43 per cent Conservative to Labour.



Arthur Scargill gives Brenda Nixon a consolatory kiss after she lost at Hemsworth

Anthony Howard, page 20 Bill to curb sex tourism wins cross-party support

BY JAMES LANDALE

CLANDESTINE travel agents who organise holidays abroad for paedophiles seeking sex with child prostitutes are to face prosecution after a Bill to combat sex tourism won cross-party support in the Commons yesterday.

The Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill, making it illegal for someone in the United Kingdom to incite another to commit sexual offences against children abroad.

received an unopposed second read-ing and is likely to become law. John Marshall, Conservative MP

for Hendon South, who put forward the Bill, said: "I believe this House has to take action to make it more difficult for paedophiles and child molesters to travel abroad to ply their perversions. I don't think one can find words sufficient to describe the contempt all of us feel for the disgusting and degrading behaviour that some individuals take part in." Some MPs want tougher action

taken so that sex tourists can be prosecuted here for sexual offences committed abroad. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced on Thursday a review of the law to see if British courts could extend their jurisdiction to sexual offences committed by UK nationals overseas.

Although Tom Sackville, the Home Office Minister, welcomed the Bill yesterday, he cautioned against extending British legal jurisdiction. He doubted whether British courts would have enough good evidence to ensure successful prosecutions. "This problem can only be solved in the countries concerned, by those governments deciding they don't want these activities to take place in their jurisdiction," he told MPs.

There are doubts as to whether extra-territorial jurisdiction would be likely to be of assistance in bringing to justice British nationals who commit offences against children in other countries. We therefore feel, subject to the review that is taking place, that our efforts should be

authorities as much as possible." Alun Michael, Labour's home affairs spokesman, was disappointed with the Government's response. The Bill was a "small step in the right direction", but the Government's review was "not exactly a tough or vigorous promise of action", he said.

Donald Anderson, Labour MP for Swansea East and a co-sponsor of the Bill, said that it would not prevent the

Militants blamed as Liverpool · · chief quits

THE Labour council leader ding Liverpool of its "loony left image resigned yesterday amid claims that hardliners were trying to regain power in

the city. Harry Rimmer, 68, stood down after party officials in his Dovecot ward left him off a shortlist of candidates for city council elections. Labour councillors said they would try to persuade Mr Rimmer, a moderate who took over the leadership in 1990, to reconsider his decision. But opposition politicians said that his lection" heralded a return to the militant socialism that flourished under Derek

Michael Storey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "Clearly his policies have not been regarded with affection by the members in the Left of the group and as a result he has been ditched. He has been knifed in the back by a growing number of strong

eftwingers." Mr Rimmer, who declined to comment yesterday, was handing the freedom of Liverpool to the city's two premier league football clubs when the ward officials made their decision. Labour has a majority of one on the council.

Isaac Shepheard, the Labour chairman of Dovecor ward, would not comment on the motives behind the deci-sion to drop Mr Rimmer after ten years of service. "It is not my responsibility to explain why people did not vote for him," he said. "I have no idea why they voted the way they did. There was no discussion

Frank Prendergast, the deputy leader who will replace Mr Rimmer, said: "Following the political problems of the 1980s. t was the courage, vision and determination: of Harry Rimmer that led the city in the direction of recovery and re-newal. He pioneered a new spirit of partnership with government agencies, businesses, the churches and community

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Judge sends unrepentant bird woman back to jail

AN ELDERLY woman who cannot stop feeding pigeons was sent back to prison for 56 days yesterday, leaving a trail of stale breadcrumbs, plump rats and angry neighbours behind her.

Jean Knowlson, 68, who last summer promised the High Court she would not feed the birds any more after her local council in Croydon, south London, took her to court, had 24 loaves in her shopping trolley when a notice of the committal hearing was served on her at a Tesco store last

An exasperated Mr Justice Butterfield said she would get a longer sentence next time if she continued to breach court orders and feed the pigeons on her release. "The defendant's conduct has been anti-social, dangerous and wholly unjusti-fiable, however genuine and well-intentioned she may be."

British Rail's environmental department had never seen

Knowlson: tests in 1991 found her to be sane

such a concentrated infestation of rats as at a railway embankment that Mrs Knowlson had coated with crumbs, the court was told.

Croydon council, which ob-tained an injunction last May restraining her from deposit-ing animal food in the borough, had tried hard to avoid bringing her back to court

Holloway last in July. She was he recalled that from at least offered counselling, but re-fused. The council asked retailers not to sell bread to her and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds advised her that she was doing the hirds no good.

The council found her a new home in a tower block for elderly residents in South Norwood when she was evicted from her previous home on gaining her freedom last year. Within weeks, she was feeding the birds again. A council official saw bread

cascading down from a carrier bag held from her window. He then watched her scatter nearly 100 handfuls near her home. When challenged and warned she could be imprisoned, she shrugged her shoul-ders and said "So what?" One neighbour had threat-

ened to cover her in petrol and set her alight but this only seemed to make her more

nothing as she was led away from court heavily wrapped in woollens, wearing white trainers, and carrying a suspicious The judge noted that Mrs Knowlson made no apology to



Pop singer questioned by murder detectives

THE pop singer Gabrielle has been arrested by detectives investigating the murder of a man at a moorland beauty spot. She was released on police bail after questioning.

The singer, who wears an eye patch because of a medical condition and had a No I hit two years ago with the single Dreams, was held in London on Thursday night and taken to Lewisham police station.

Detective Superintendent Andrew Hardy of Derbyshire police said the interview was not directly about the mur-der". Walter McCarthy, 59, a. fish-and-chip shop owner, was in a lay-by at Cutthroat Bridge in the Derbyshire Peak District four days before Christmas.

Two men, one of them Mr McCarthy's business partner and stepson. Tony Antoniou, who ran the pair's business in Parsons Green, Sheffield, have been charged with his

Gabrielle, 25. Is a former girlfriend of Antoniou and the mother of his child, according

京の家子 西南北

SERVINE REPRESENTATION OF THE SERVIN

Fraudster who stole body to be deported

A man was jailed for six years yesterday for a multimillionpound life assurance swindle. John Folagbade, 32, had stolen a body from a mortuary in Nigeria as part of a fraud plot.

The Southwark Crown Court jury who convicted him of deception and forgery had not been told of the violent attempts to stop the trial. Judge Rivlin, QC, said he would recommend that Folagbade. who was born in Nigeria, be deported after his sentence.

Mother saved

Kim Carr, 8, saved her mother's life after finding her pet lovebirds dead in the bottom of their cage and her mother semi-conscious on a sofa in their gas-filled house at Llay, near Wrexham, Clwyd. She raised the alarm and Stephanie, 32, was taken to hospital.

Fire monitor

Firefighters were watched by a security guard as they spent at the Birmingham Mint yesterday. Afterwards they had to pass through a scanner to ensure they had not taken any coins, thousands of which were damaged by the blaze.

Holy orders

The Bleach Green Social Club in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, has been converted into a church by an evangelical movement, the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship. Beer pumps have been removed from the lounge, where worshippers will congregate.

Attacker jailed

A man who attacked a builder who complained that children had vandalised his car was jailed for four years at Liver-pool Crown Court. Richard Mellor, 32, who punched and kicked Barry Hayes, blinding him in one eye, was convicted of grievous bodily harm.

Sharp move

More than 38,000 knives handed in at police stations around Britain during the recent knives amnesty have been melted down and made into lorry axles at the British Steel Engineering Steels works in Stocksbridge near

Red letter day

Two hundred post boxes in Cardiff are being repainted pillar box red after a Post Office blunder led to them getting two coats of traffic light red. The mix-up happened when a shade of red used for stamp vending ma-



A TWO-FACED Richard Nixon won a place in the album of a wealthy stamp collector yesterday when a portrait commemorative showing a double image of the disgraced president sold for £11,043 at Christie's in New York.

issued by the US Post Office a spectacular error slipped past the checkers. It showed an inverted portrait out of register with the inscription and the denomination. The unused stamp was bought at a post office in Virginia.

The buyer took it to Christie's in New York where it was one of the star lots in an auction of US postage bought by an American private collector well above the pre-sale estimate. Experts believe there may be others and



Two-faced president

is bought for £11,000

The 32 cent stamp was

expect them to emerge. The reputation of the 37th president has undergone a radical reassessment since his downfall in 1974. More emphasis is laid now on his ending the Vietnam War and rapprochement with China than with sleaze in the Oval

The stamp was among the top five items in a sale where another inverted issue sold for £52,649 to an American dealer. It showed an air mail issue with an aircraft flying upside down in the centre. The 24 cent stamp is known among collectors as "the inverted Jenny" because the biplane is

a Curtis Jenny.

The stamp was printed in attractive shades of rose and blue and once belonged to the fourth Marquess of Bute who kept it in the Chancery Lane

Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

safety deposit in London.

The building was flooded during one of the heaviest air raids of the war in September 1940 but the stamp was saved even though the glue was washed off. It made almost £50,000 in 1979 at the height of the investment boom. chines was ordered in error. Collecting, Weekend page 15 Where do you get help from HM Treasury to avoid tax?



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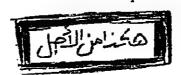
est Toyota terms, the Corolla GS gives you a specification that's tough to match. Along with electric front windows and sunroof, it has power steering, a driver's airbag, central locking and an engine immobiliser. There are seat-**Φτογοτα** belt pretensioners, a 4-speaker radio/cassette, side-impact beams, even a



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Drive to ban child labour makes India poor poorer

A DRIVE by British charities against importing Indian hand-knotted carpets made by children has divided social activists in both countries. World sales of rugs from India, Nepal and Pakistan have fallen because of concern about child exploitation, throwing poor families deeper

The introduction of a registered label, Rugmark, on exported Indian carpets, supposedly reassuring buyers that child weavers did not make them, was condemned this week as a "fraud and a racket" by Swami Agnivish, one of India's most respected social activists. The scheme is promoted in Britain by Christian Aid and the London-based Anti-Slavery International.

Rugmark has been boycutted by E. Hill and Co. the main exporter of Indian carpets to Britain, partly explaining why no Indian rugs for sale in British stores carry the label. Britain is the third largest importer of Indian rugs after Germany and the United



Moves by British charities to outlaw child weavers in South Asia have split activists. Christopher Thomas writes

States, Almost all carpets made in South Asia contain an element of child labour.

The labelling scheme, controlled by a Delhi-based nonprofit company, Rugmark Foundation, requires carpet exporters and manufacturers to pledge that their products are not made by children under 14. About 50 Indian companies have signed up with the scheme, representing a small proportion of total carpet exports.

However, it is all but impossible to verify their pledge. Carpet weaving is a cottage industry carried out in thousands of mud huts over a wide area in north Indian villages. where child labour is commonplace and socially accept-Rugs are

primarily by peasants and their families working parttime on their small looms. usually located in poorly lit and badly ventilated buts. Weavers frequently suffer from eye and respiratory problems.

Some child weavers are migrant labourers, mainly from the poor northern state of Bihar, a number of whom are sold into bondage to pay off parents' debts. This amounts to slavery. Most looms in northern India are owned by subsistence farmers whose families weave part-time for extra income.

Swami Agnivish, head of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, said consumers were being duped into believing carpets carrying the

Rugmark logo were free of child labour. It is impossible to give such a guarantee, because carpet weaving is contracted out, sub-contracted and then sub-sub-contracted, until you do not know who is making what for whom." He advocates a process of change rather than sweeping measures that could shatter the industry and increase poverty.

The Rugmark Foundation. set up with German government money, seeks payments from importers and exporters of carpets bearing its logo of a smiling face on a rug. Kailash Satyarthi, head of the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude and a driving force behind the scheme, said the foundation would eventually provide schooling and rehabilitation for child weavers, The Rugmark scheme is

opposed by Project Mala, a registered charity run by Robin Garland, a York-based businessman. It operates four schools for 700 children aged ten to 14 in Uttar Pradesh, the centre of carpet manufacture



Child carpet weavers in northern India. Many have been sold into bondage to pay for their parents' debts

in India, providing basic literacy and employable skills to

"In an ideal world there should be no child weavers," Mr Garland said during a them off the looms takes away income from poor families back their childhood. They are simply driven into even more hazardous employment." Oxpets, takes extraordinary steps to ensure that rugs advertised in its catalogues are free of child labour. This is one of the

monitoring. Kevan Bundell, programme

London: The Rugmark system is not foolproof. It was launched earlier than would have been ideal because of



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Rural school defies end of apartheid

THE burly, balding Afrikaner deputy of the primary school embroiled in a nat-ional race row shifted awkwardly and glanced nervously across his small office. The parents are saying they don't want kaffirs coming to their school," he said wearily.

In bright sunshine outside, fair-skinned boys with cricket bats played beneath tropical trees, seemingly unaware of the furore going on around them. Last week, their parents slipped into military-style khaki uniterms and physically harred three black children from the school.

Ngokoako Ramathlodi, the African National Congress: premier of Northern Province, has ordered the school to open its doors to the pupils or : face legal action that could lead to its closure. But at a meeting on Thursday the parents agreed to stand firm. The case will now go to the Pretoria Supreme Court on

Monday, the first such test. whites only schools were intealed under a single educational structure, many schools in rural areas still preserve their racial exclusivity, Claims by these schools that this is end of apartheid, yesterday because blacks have not app-lied are contested and the ANC is becoming impatient.

DAYS

TRIAL

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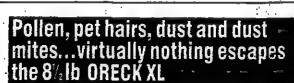
Apartheid was always more rigidly entrenched in rural towns than cities and is proving harder to shake off. in Potgietersrus, 160 miles north attempts to enrol blacks in schools which they say wer built and maintained with

The two apartheid-era nat ional flags hanging in the main hall at the primary school are reminders of how many whites still ding to the past. In language echoing the dark days of discrimina week that the Bibl warned about racial mixing stances" would ber children mix with blacks.

Alson Matukane, a civil engineer, and father of the would-be pupils, says he is fearful for his safety. He says whites standing there. They in Afrikaans and told me I could not take my children to

a white school." The right-wing Conservative Party, which resisted the congratulated the parents on what it says could be a new awakening by Afrikaners".

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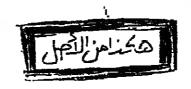
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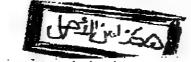
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THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF ORWICH UNION

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1996

Hanson's electricity shops axe 2,300 jobs

BY CHRISTING DOUBTS hang over the she public face of the former future of Powerhouse, the electricity boards.

In a submission to Offer, the electricity regulator, in 1992.

Planson, after the announce electricity regulator, in 1992.

Dixons argued that, when the former former the capits redundancy programme that will hit 2,300 staff and close 195 high street stores.

Although 120 stores will remain trading in the chain that Hanson bought fully in November, after having inherited a 36 per cent stake from its takeover of Eastern Group last year, electricity company analysis believe that Powerhouse has no long-term future. The chain, which has been

losing £25 million a year, shows a similar trading pattern to other electrical appliance outlets run by electricity companies. When ownership of Powerhouse was shifted to curred a charge of £140 million.

The chain was bought by Hanson, for what was beleved to be a nominal sum. from its co-owners, Midlands Electricity and Southern Electric, when the two companies were both the subject of active bids from the generators PowerGen and National Power er. Other electricity companies have left electrical retailing. street retailers, such as Dixons, which claim that the take advantage of monopoly. income from electricity distribution to support a high street

Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst with Yamaichi, said: There is no money in high street retailing for electricity companies. Such outlets are creatures of the Seventies and Sixties." Many analysts believe that the retailing fronts. will disappear around the country, with companies abandoning what was largely

Dixons argued that, when the cost of imancing the capital tied up in the retail business is taken into account a net aggregate loss was made by one electricity company that had reported an operating profit in appliance retailing.

Recently, in an energy mag-azine by Oxford Economic Research Associates, John Clare, the chief executive of Dixons, complained that the consumer electrical industry could not support competition that was uncommercial. When Hanson bought Pow-erhouse, it said that it would

implement a thorough review of the business, but emphasised that if would retain payment points for cus-tomers. Yesterday, Eastern Group detailed 300 new meter new outlets, including post offices and peiral stations. The fact that more changing points than stars closures have been announced may east doubt on the future of remaining Powerhouse stores. There is a belief in the City that those stores will

be packaged and sold soon.
Chris Collins, Hanson vice chairman, said that the future of the remaining stores had been made more secure by the closure programme, but declined to say what the next step would be. We have secured a future for the remaining stores and that is an achievement on a heavily loss-making busi-

ness," he said.

Glyn Moser, head of Powerhouse Retail, blamed a highly competitive electrical retailing market for the closures. He said: "This loss making seenario cannot continue, and the nian offers our remaining staff a secure and positive future."



BLAGG, the loss-making building supplies merchant, announced yesterday the £30 million acquisition of Freepages, the telephone directory company (Alasdair Murray writes).

The reverse takeover will see the directors of Freepages taking a 54.5 per cent stake in Blagg and the company renaming itself Freepages pic. Existing Blagg shareholders will receive

basis of two old shares for one new share. Shares in Blagg were suspended at 175p pending the relisting by February 27.
Pictured are the incoming executives Ronald Zimet, chairman, centre, Nigel Robertson, chief

executive, right, and Robert Bonnier, finance

BA shift on flights creates 1,000 jobs

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to create 1,000 jobs as part of a plan to switch flights from overcrowded Heathrow to Gatwick airport. Eleven weekly Central and East African services will move to Gatwick on March 18.

By the summer BA will fly to as many short-haul destinations from Gatwick as from Heathrow, and within three years it will be handling as many passengers at Gatwick's North terminal as now use Heathrow Terminal 4.

Heathrow services are also continuing to expand so there will be no compensating loss of jobs there. "The people who now operate the Africa services from Heathrow will simply switch to others," a spokeswoman said. New routes into North America are being opened up, as well as services to Edinburgh, Stockholm and Zurich.

The expansion at Gatwick is taking place at a quicker rate than BA envisaged six months ago. It had expected to take on an additional 400 crew.

The airline is stepping up its recruitment drive, including 70 qualified pilots who will be taken on at Gatwick by the summer. The first 16 cadet pilots have started a 56-week training course at Oxford, and others will be trained at Bedford or in Australia.

At the same time 160 directentry pilots will be recruited by May 1997 and a further 100 a year will be given refresher training at Prestwick. The BA group aiready employs 6,877 staff in the Gatwick area.

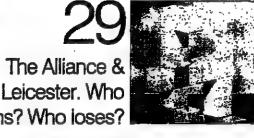
In 1992, when British Airways took over Dan Air, it operated 380 scheduled flights a week from Gatwick. This summer that number will have risen to 900 a week to 90 destinations.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, said yesterday: We have chosen to grow at Gatwick because the airport already boasts first-class rail and road links and an extensive route network. Transferring East and Central African services to Gatwick will allow us to expand our business at Heathrow on routes where demand is greatest."

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on savers' right





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on futures buying

BY MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SHARE prices yesterday closed at yet another new high after a burst of futures related

buying.
The FT-SE 100 index recovered from a hesitant start to premium to the cash market. end just a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 28.5, to a record 3,781.3. It stretched the rise on the week to 46.6 points, with a total 830 million shares... changing hands. By contrast, government securities had falls of more than El at the longer end in volatile trading, which, dealers said, reflected weaker overseas bond markets. Early impetus for the rise in

shares came from the futures pit, where the March series of the FT-SE 100 rose sharply as buyers appeared. At the close, it was still at a 15-point

This led to suggestions that institutional investors have begun switching funds from the bond market to equities. However, this was being discounted last night in most quarters. quickly railied as support for the future squeezed prices in the cash market higher.

Stock Market, page 28

THE fature ownership of the

Shares at new high | Mattel drops \$5.2bn offer for Hasbro

By ERIC REGULY

MATTEL, the maker of Barbie dolls, yesterday aban-doned its \$5.2 billion offer for Hasbro after accusing the rival American toymaker of launching a "scurched earth campaign" to remain

Alan Hassenfeld, chief executive of Hasbro, which is best known for its GI Joe soldier dolls and Tonka toys, said: "I am firmly convinced that our board did the right thing in unanimously rejecting their unsolicited proposal because of the very serious antitrust issues raised by it and the resulting very low probability that the transaction could be

Mattel said the strong rejection was peculiar because it had been led to believe that Hasbro was keen on a merger. The two companies had been in talks since last April and, according to Mattel, had out-January. Mattel even offered to pay Hasbro a \$100 million break-up fee if antitrust law prevented the merger from proceeding. Mattel's shareswap offer represented a pre-mium of \$2.2 billion.

Still room at the Savoy



Market Control of the Control of the

Savoy group of botels remains up in the air, despite reports of a "done deal" with Prince al-Waleed bin Talal. the billionaire Sandi investor. A handful of bidders have expressed an interest in the . group, which includes Claridge's and the Berkeley in London, but a serious contender has yet to emerge.

The Sultan of Brunei, who owns the Dorchester, and his uniger brother, Prince Jefri Bolkiah, who owns Asprey, the royal jeweller, are among names to be linked with the Savoy, which faces a new victory over Porte. A porchas-

er would inherit 68 per cent of the Savoy equity but only 42 per cent of the voting shares an arrangement which thwaned Lord Forte in his long-running struggle for ownership of the Savoy.

A deal with the Savoy would make sense for Prince al-Waleed, who is rapidly emerging as one of the world's most dynamic investors. He holds significant stakes in Euro Disney and Citicorp, and is part of the consortium which recently took control of Canary Wharf. the office development in London's Docklands.

His advisers believe an

investment in the Savoy is

worthy of serious consideration. He is reported to be eyeing other "prestige" hotels such as the Hyde Park and the Waldorf

Possible contenders include Kwek Leng Beng, the Singapore-based property tycoon, who last year purchased the Copthorne chain of hotels from Aer Lingus for £219 million. His other UK interests include the Cheisea hotel in Knightsbridge.

The fate of the Savoy rests with family trusts associated with the late Sir Hugh Wontner. They hold the key to any sale, and have left matters in the hands of the Savoy board.

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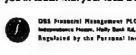
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Bifu calls first strike

Bundesbank stands firm on EMU criteria

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

HANS TIETMEYER, the President of the Bundesbank, cast further doubt on the credibility of the European single currency yesterday when he said there was "no chance" of softening the Maastricht criteria for monetary union and revived the German Government's demand for a tough "stability pact" to force European countries to intensify their fiscal discipline after 1999.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos in Switzerland, Herr Tietmeyer refused to speculate about which countries, if any, would be ready to join a monetary union by the 1999 deadline. It was not

Yarrow cuts

650 jobs as

MoD holds

fire on bids

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Michael Portillo, Secretary

of State for Defence, is consid-

ering competing bids to build the next three Type 23s from Yarrow and Vosper Thornycroft in Southampton. Murray Easton, managing

director of Yarrow, said that

even if the company was

successful in securing the order, there would still be

redundancies - though the

scale would be reduced. But he

made it clear that several

hundred more jobs, on top of

yesterday's redundancies, would go if the order was

placed elsewhere. Vospers is also warning of job cuts if the

Whitehall officials indicated

that the decision on the new

order is likely to be announced

within weeks. But they point-

ed out the substantial overca-

pacity in warship manufac-

ture in the UK, and the efforts

the Government had made to

assist the warship-building

yards to find alternative work

from overseas — although

they accepted that widespread

restructuring in the defence

industry beyond the UK made

winning new overseas orders

Jim Moohan, chief ship-building negotiator for the GMB general union in Scot-

land, said vesterday: "For two

reasons, the MoD's delay in

announcing the Type 23 Frig-ate programme and the refus-

al to help yards like Yarrow to

diversify, we blame the Con-

servative Government for this

disaster. Their inaction has

been disgraceful and has de-

order goes to Yarrow.

YARROW, the warship-build-

er on the Clyde, cut more than

600 jobs yesterday and said

that further jobs will go unless

the Government places orders

with the yard for new Royal

sion shortly on where to build

three Type 23 frigates -- with Yarrow seen as favourite —

Whitehall emphasised last

night that the company main-

tained there was a need for job cuts regardless of whether it

long-feared job losses at the

yard, claiming that the 650 redundancies among the

yard's workforce of 3.000 were

unavoidable" in the absence

of sufficient work to follow on

from current contracts, which

includes three other Type 23s for the Royal Navy, and two frigates for the Royal Malay-

sian Navy. Only one Type 23 remains to be launched, with

the others now undergoing final commissioning ahead of

Sainsbury

fuels price

war fear

SUPERMARKET shares

terday as J Sainsbury pre-

pared to launch its second

major price-cutting pro-

motion of the year, reviv-

ing concern about a price

war, and stockbrokers cut

profit forecasts for the

sector (Sarah Cunning-

Sainsbury's February

Bonus campaign, starting

tomorrow, is a continua

tion of the January Savers

promotion, which it has

hailed as a great success, and involves price cuts averaging 25 per cent on 200 items. Sainsbury

shares closed unchanged

at 389p after recovering

from early losses, but

Tesco shares closed down

5p. at 287p. and Asda slipped 1.5p. to 104p. Rival supermarkets

yesterday dismissed

Sainsbury's move as a

gimmick, but analysts

say they may yet follow suit.

ham writes).

delivery later in the year.

secured the new order. Yarrow announced the

While ministers plan a deci-

Navy frigates.

possible to predict the outcome of the review of the Maastricht targets in the spring of 1998. In response to a question about whether he thought monetary union would actually go ahead on schedule, he answered: "1999, that is the date in the treaty ... that is the only date that counts."

The Bundesbank President added that even if the convergence criteria were satisfied, Germany would insist on a further tough political condition before there could be any question of monetary union. Prospective members of EMU would have to agree on a system of fines for exceeding future deficit targets far tougher than the vague procedure outlined in the Maastricht Treaty.

New alert

hits shares

in Dawson

SHARES in Dawson, the textile group, yesterday fell 14p to close at 97p as the company issued its third prof-

would be well below current

market forecasts, blaming tough trading conditions in the UK and overstocking in

the US for depressing sales volumes and margins in the

fibres and yarns and apparel

businesses. It added that the

market in fur fabrics had also

Last year. Dawson made a

full-year profit of £1.7 million.
At the half-year, the company

saw a 43 per cent drop in profits, to £9 million, and

gave warning of a difficult

The company, which is best

known for its Pringle and

Bailantyne labels, has suf-

fered from cancellation of an

£8.75 million sale of five US

apparel businesses. Dawson

said that it is seeking another

buyer but that year-end gear-ing would be higher than

Derek Finlay, chairman,

insisted, however, that Daw-

son would maintain its 1.5p

dividend. He said: "Substant-

ial progress continues to be made in improving operating

efficiencies in the group's key businesses, including Pringle.

I remain confident that the

group is on the right track

weakened, it said,

it warning in 12 months.

This proposal for a tough stability pact, involving potentially enormous fines, was first made last summer by Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister. But as doubts have spread about EMU, amid indications that neither France nor Germany will be able to hit the Maastricht targets, the demand for a stability pact seemed to recede. Yesterday's statement by Herr Tietmeyer suggested, however, that the Bundesbank's attitude to the issue had, if anything, toughened.

Other governments and the European Commission have said that they accept the principle of a stability pact, but that any such pact should be based on the complex "excessive deficits" procedure laid down in the Maatsricht Treaty.

Commission to come up with a "concrete proposal", adding that support for an idea "in principle" could sometimes be a substitute for putting it into practice.

Without strict observance of the Maastricht targets and tough automatic fines embodied in a stability pact. Herr Tietmeyer said it would be impossible to persuade the German public that the new single currency would be as strong as the mark. The Bundesbank could only support a new European currency that was as stable as the mark. Jean-Claude Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France, said he was confident that BMU would go ahead in 1999 and that both Germany and France would hit the Maastricht targets.

Gold price surges to six-year peak

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

GOLD dealers were describing yesterday as "Golden Friday" after the gold price leapt \$8.65 in early trading to \$417.75 an ounce to touch

its best level in six years.
Although late profit-taking clipped the price to
\$414.50 by the close, still
nearly \$4 higher on Thursday's close, dealers said the mood remains positive.

Some analysts were talk-ing about a new bull market in gold that could take the price to \$420 and beyond. However, others cau-tioned that the sharpness of the advance could attract widespread selling

The rush for gold was triggered by suggestions of American fund buying of the metal, and was further encouraged by the issue by Robert Fleming and Goldman Sachs of American-style call warrants on

Sentiment has been further aided by a round of interest rate cuts and news from Barrick Gold that it had reduced its forward.

selling of the metal.

Gold shares in Australia,
South Africa, London and New York were actively traded, and the Johannesburg All-Gold index reached a 13-month high.

Andy Smith, gold analyst at UBS, said that he expects gold to rally further in the near term. "If the \$420 level is broached and institutions begin to move significantly into gold, the sky's the limit in the short term," he said.

shares analyst at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, feels "this is not a one-month wonder Silver and platinum rose in gold's wake "which suggests strongly that a big buil market in precious metals could soon be underway," Eli Gifford, technical anslyst with Investment Research of Cambridge, said.

over staff allowance ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND staff in London have called the first of a series of one-day strikes for Friday. Members of Bifu, the banking union, voted in favour of strikes to support their claim for a 16 per cent increase in London allowances which have been frozen for the past five years. The bank has 4,000 staff in London and half of them are members of Bifu. However, a bank spokesman said fewer than 450 members of London staff and only one in four Bifu members in London

voted in favour of action. He said: "We regret that Bifu has decided to take this action, but we are confident that we will maintain service to all our customers." The bank believes its London allowance of £3.450 "is extremely competitive with those paid by other banks in London". RBS's allowance is in line with that paid by Lloyds, Bank of Scotland and the Co-operative Bank.

Official reserves fall

UK official reserves fell by an underlying \$89 million last month. Total reserves at the end of January were down by \$2.09 billion, to \$46.99 billion. The underlying fall in reserves came as a mild surprise to economists, who had not expected a change. The underlying fall follows a \$36 million drop in December. Kit Juckes, of NatWest Markets, said that last month's change looked like mere "market smoothing". He said: "Sterling has not at any point been so weak that there has have not the property of the part of the point been so weak that there has the property of the part of th been aggressive central bank intervention to support it."

Super utility chief quits

GERRY ORBELL, managing director of United Utilities' International division, resigned in a surprise move yesterday for what the company termed "personal reasons". He left the super utility formed from North West Water and Norweb because of pressures on his family from extensive travel, and because he could not relocate to the North West. Brian Staples, chief executive of United Utilities, said. "He leaves at a time when ... we are studying how best to add electricity activities to our international product range."

Bankruptcy rate dips

BUSINESS failures fell by 3 per cent to 3,722 in England and. Wales in the final quarter of last year, compared with the wates in the final quarter of last year, compared with me previous three months. For the year as a whole, there were 14.536 company insolvencies, compared with 16,728 in 1994, a decrease of 13.1 per cent, according to the Department of Trade- and Industry. The number of individuals going bankrupt in the fourth quarter was 6.481, down 24 per cent on the previous quarter, taking the total for the year to 25,319, or 14.4 per cent lewer than in 1994.

Homes recovery on way

HOUSE prices are stable and the housing market is poised for recovery, according to the Nationwide Building Society's January house price survey, published yesterday. The society's prediction comes after news of a 0.1 per cent rise in prices from the Halliax Building Society, whose index showed prices rising for the sixth month in succession. In spite of indications of a tentative recovery, Nationwide said prices were still 0.7 per cent lower than in January 1995 - the average price is now £50,521, against £50,901 then

Shopping centre deal

CAPITAL AND REGIONAL PROPERTIES, the property management and investment company, has agreed to acquire Wood Green Shopping City, the shopping centre in north London, for £33.05 million. The vendors are Electricity Supply Nominees. Shopping City's anchor tenants are Boots, Argos, C&A, Allied Carpets, Wades Furniture and WH Smith. The development has total lettable space of 463,000 sq. ft and two multistorey car parks with 1,479 spaces, it produces £3.2 million of net rental income a year.



Finlay: confident that Dawson is on the road to recovery

BT attacks price controls

paign for deregulation by calling for an end to virtually

stroyed the lives of 650 workers and their families." Shop stewards from the yard will now seek talks with Michael Forsyth, Secretary of

all price controls by the year

The continuing battle with Don Cruickshank, the industry regulator, saw the company also call for a right of reply in disputes with Oftel, with the ability to go to the Monopolies and Mergers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY agree with a decision by Oftel.

BT maintains that competition in telecoms would be sufficient to ensure pricing benefits to customers. It said that liberalisation of the industry across Europe in 1998 and swift developments in technology could speed deregulation so that by 3000 there would be no need for pricing controls, cess to the system. Proposals on pricing and fair trading put forward by the regulator last year will be crucial for BT's investment plans. The company and the regulator are at odds on a rate

of return. Oftel believes the range should be 9-13 per cent, while BT says it should be 16-



THE SUNDAY TIMES I have never been a monument man. I have always been a little embarrassed at having my name on the door. I have never looked at the company as an ego trip ... 9

Lord Hanson - Business: The Sunday Times tomorrow

Heseltine lauds engineering's key role

ENGINEERING in Britain is "absolutely central" to the UK economy and its prospects of meeting the global markets and technological challenges of the 21st century, Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Mr Heseltine was speaking to industry leaders in London at the launch of the new

gether under a new, merged identity the 39 institutions and professional bodies in the engineering industry. The conference was relayed live to parallel events around the

Mr Heseltine said that engineering was "crucial for the present and future well-being of the national economy", though he warned that its "full

potential is not being realised in certain key respects". It needed to promote a "fundamental reform" of the selection, education, training and use of engineers and technicians, he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the formation of the new council, and said that the Government would continue to support it and the industry. But Sir Alastair Morton, cochairman of Eurotunnel, the UK's largest recent engineering project, warned that Britain looked likely to lag behind in making the moves necessary for such projects. New public private linanc-

ing ideas, he said, meant investment. European co-operation, comprehension of the benefits of cross-border projects and looking forward instead of back. "That's four requirements unlikely to sit comfortably here," he said.

"How very sad that would be:.. we must not let it happen." Later this year, the council will launch a new drive to win support for the industry. Dr Alan Rudge, deputy group managing director of BT and chairman of the new council's senate, said the changes marked the "beginning of a new era for the engineering profession", and gave it and engineers a new mandate for

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: PAUL SIMONS

Man who played Cantona on his sales pitch

Teenagers mistrust anything promoted by the older generation. Martin Waller meets an ad man who can break down the barrier

is very honest

and very

open 7



onday Hell You and your iriends want to watch Hotel Babylon, but he won't go to bed. He hursday
He says "phat!" and "ba-a ad" and "wickwants to watch it too. ed" a lot. He rifles

through your magazines. He listens to your CDs — "this one's Your culture is yours. It is meant to

alienate, to keep out all but teenagers that is why it is so noisy, so lurid, so tribal. It is not meant to build bridges with his

It was sold to you by middle-aged men

Paul Simons is 47, and on a good day he wears a suit. He is not the Dad from Hell. But he has sold more than 400,000 PlayStations to teenagers across Europe versed in the black arts of Morial Kombat and Doom. He has made Sony Corporation very happy, and wiped the smiles off the faces of two other Japanese corporations, Sega and Nintendo, whose own hand-held consoles once defined and dominated the video games market.

Simons Palmer operates out of a hideous blue and pink building in Soho's Adland. Inside, the walls are painted similarly garish colours,

huge plastic cacti abound, the cast-offs of an old advertisement shoot, and somewhere in the distance an anonymous soul diva bemoans her love life. Men cladentirely in baggy black. stride about clutching poster tubes. When Simons Palmer

the cacti arrived later — it was designed to — meant they were shunned by the young, look as little as possible like the headquar- — the target market. "The challenge was ters of an advertising agency. As a result, it looks just what it is, the headquarters of "

an extremely trendy advertising agency.
Simons Palmer is actually Simons
Palmer Denton Clemmow and Johnson: As is the way in Adiand, Palmer and: Denton are no more, having departed in : February 1994 to direct commercials rather than dream them up. Their 20 per cent stakes in the business are in the expensive process of being bought by the remaining three.

It is a pattern repeated at Gold Greenless Trott, the bigger agency from which much of Simons Palmer decamped six years ago and where Dave Trott, the demotic genius behind the Toshiba ads of a few years ago, then quit too, to leave behind only the faint echo of his name.

five minutes before the biggest recession the ad world had ever seen. It was founded with the help of the money GGT, a break he says he had to engineer to keep his share option profits, and an understanding if sometimes nervousbank manager. The agency, still small but "made for the young," he says. Two to regarded as one of the few entrepreneur-. ial boutiques now on the up, has won

HE IS the Dad from enough awards - they all win awards but it has become especially adept at selling to young people.

It produced, for example, a string of brilliant and irreverent ads for Nike featuring Eric Cantona - among them: 66 was a great year for English football. Eric was born". Then there was: "Behind every great goalkeeper there's a ball from Ian Wright." Nike, third in the sports shoe market five years ago, is now number one by turnover.

"Being over 20 and writing for people under 20 is always tricky because of the generation gap," says Simons. "When you get to over 40 that gap becomes enormous. The young know when they are being sold to. They want to discover things for themselves. You can't just go out there and say, it's the best, because it gets thrown back in your face."

Traditionally, advertising types split into two camps, the smooth-suited account handlers who deal with the clients, and creatives who dream up the ads. Simons, oddly, is neither of these, but somewhere in the middle. A former colleague reflects: "One of his great talents has to be his ability to spot talent in others - he's built a team with some bright people around him.

"He's one of those strange people who are bright without being intelligent." He also has a distinctly odd approach to his clients. Most agencies will walk 6 The style of this place

on hot coals to keep them. Simons once fired The agency was given the task of turning round the Wrangler brand, all but banished from smart clothes shops by Levis because the jeans' chast-ly, middle-aged image

getting Wrangler to be regarded by them as a legitimate alternative to Levis," says

Within three years sales and market share were up, aided by a grainy television campaign that stressed gritty urban life as against the glossy 1950s Americana being used to sell Levis. But the dwaers of Wrangler were not happy.

We started getting this left-field pres-sure. Maybe the advertising shouldn't be so radical, they said, Simons remembers; For example, the American owners wanted to change the soundtrack by Jimi Hendrix, the guitarist who has acquired the posthumous status of a demi-god to the grunge generation, to Michael Jackfew years ago, then quit too, to leave sont Simons responded by buying a copy chind only the faint edio of his name. of Melody Maker, drawing up ten Simons Palmer set up in business about musical questions, checking that his son. then 17, knew the answers and throwing them at the American executives. "I wanted to establish who had the authority

> "It showed the danger of middle-aged men making decisions about products three weeks later, with no improvement in the relationship, he made it clear that



WorkStation: Paul Simons in the Soho office that he has occupied since 1988. A Nike advertisement featuring Eric Cantona hangs on the wall

year — was no longer wanted. "My phrase was, let's quit while we're ahead."

The Sony PlayStation campaign was inspired by marijuana. More precisely, a US government propaganda film of the 1950s called Reefer Madness which, while attempting to keep viewers off the weed, made it all seem too exciting and adventurous to miss.

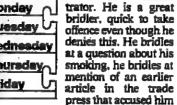
The ads feature a nerdish American, ostensibly a member of a secret organis-ation called the Society Against PlayStation, warning teenagers of the perils of the Sony contraption. It is based on the premise that if you forbid a teenager to do something, he or she will then do it for sure.

It is enormously witty and stylish, with a dark, surreal tinge. It is also almost incomprehensible, without an explanation, to anyone over 25.

Simons wanders into a board meeting the room are five men, one woman, one tie, two earrings (female), one earring about software and beat-em-ups. Simons

the business - billings of 66 million a of 25 minutes and then, apparently at random, stands up to leave. Even he is unable to sum up his role at

Simons Palmer. He describes himself as a catalyst, which says nothing, but bridles at the word administrator. He is a great bridler, quick to take



press that accused him of deliberately humiliating his staff to get the best out of them. Simons says: "I do get accused a lot of being too harsh. I don't do it in a way that is humiliating. But people get too close to the issue, and they have to be challenged.
"I think the traditional perception of an

ad agency is that everything that hap-pens, and any questioning that is done, has to have a big dollop of syrup over it. The style of this place is very honest and very open - we ask questions without the

syrup and the sugar." He certainly has high expectations of people, and insider gossip says the break with his previous agency was inevitable because of his need to be in control.

The Nike, Wrangler and Sony cam-

paigns had one thing in common. They were all coming from behind. When Sony approached Simons Paimer last spring, they had no firm ideas, but

they knew previous games ads had

resembled children's TV - loud music, bright lights, fast cutting. "Clients tend to walk in and say, we have a problem with this brand," says Simons, "What you can't do is produce advertising that is absolutely identical to what already exists there's no point."

What this in effect means is that clients sometimes have to be told that they are wrong, and that their current advertising, on which they have spent millions, is wrong too.

Simons's favourite quotation comes from George Bernard Shaw. Shaw wrote: The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the

Marbled splendour instils reassurance in face of risk

Totting up the under-writing risks of life and property insurance is not normally done in a church. But at Norwich Union insurance group, the chairman and his directors and secretarial teams toil away in the grand and elaborately well-appointed surroundings of a cathedral.
The Marble Hall at the

group's headquarters in Surrey House, Norwich, which has just emerged from a four-year refurbishment, is decorated with the marble stones, pillars and slabs originally destined for Westminster Cathedral in London.

The assignment of 40 solid oillars of verde antico and cipollino marble and the massive slabs of fine coloured stones for lining the walls were held up by a strike at the Italian quarry. When the shipment turned

Joanna Pitman admires the opulence of Norwich Union's main office

up just before the turn of the century it was too late to get it into Westminster Cathedral But George Skipper, to build Norwich Union's new main office, heard about the unwanted_consignment chase for £5,000 to incorpo-

rate it in the building. The Marble Hall was completed in 1904 with a glass dome 40ft in diameter, surrounded by a colonnade and 30ft high walls lined with other marble pieces. Skipper pieces designed for Westminster Cathedral's font, assembling them in the centre of the room as a ventilation. circulating warm or cold air through vents concealed at the bases of some of the

floor consists entirely of mar-ble and has a vaulted and intricately decorated plaster ceiling. Skipper's decoration of the boardroom was inspired, it is thought, by visits to the state apartments of Holkham and Houghton, Norfolk's stately halls. The gilded and carved ceiling incorporates circular paintings by George Murray of the Three Fates. - Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos. Bordering these are the signs of the zodiac and two semicircular paintings showing

poetry. An arcaded corridor runs right around the room. An innovative architect. Skipper made very early use of steel beams, which, untouched for nine decades. had begun to corrode. The The staircase leading to the boardroom on the first marble slabs to walls was also beginning to come

away, making the refurbish-The building is Grade I listed and had been unalfour years ago. In spite of its pings, the Marble Hall has Norwich Union holds its AGM there and in each of the four corners are offices and committee rooms used by senior executives.

Very little is known about Skipper, apart from the fact that he was the son of a building contractor and studied architecture in Norwich and then London. But for more than a century his legacy in marble has offered inspiration to insurance underwriters, even if it has lacked the quiet contemplative calm of a cathedral. As with all historic build-

ings functioning as working environments, adaptation to modern-day technology has not been easy. Computer terminals are dotted around on the chequerboard flagged floor. John Mundey has been facilities manager since 1956. "I suppose you get a bit blasé seeing it every day," he said. "But ... a marble connoisseur would have a field day."



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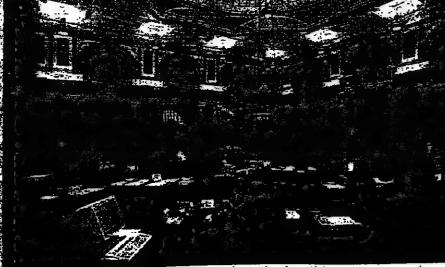
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Index higher as futures advance and gilts wilt

FUTURES-RELATED buying enabled investors to end the week on a high note, with share prices closing at yet another record high. The FT-SE 100 index fin-

ished just below its best of the day, with a rise of 28.5 points to 3,781.3, stretching its lead on the week to 46.6.

By contrast, government se-curities suffered falls of more than £1 in places, partly reflecting weakness in overseas bond markets.

This led to suggestions that institutional investors had begun switching out of gilts and into equities, where a total of 813 million shares were

There was no doubt where the initial impetus had come from. Strong buying of the financial future enabled the equity market to wipe out an early fall. The March series of the FT-SE 100 index closed at 3,797, a premium of 15 points over the cash market.

Giaxo Wellcome staged a chart breakout, with a rise of 17p to 969p on turnover of 4.58 Independent researchers point out that the shares are now trading at their highest level relative to the rest of the market since 1992 They forecast that the next stop for the shares will be the £10.80 level.

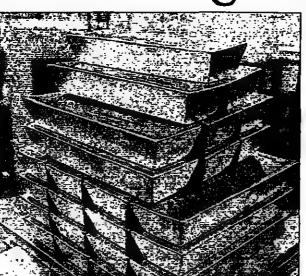
It was a disappointing session for Zeneca, however, with the price touching £12.16 hefore ending 31p lower at

Whispers in the marketplace claim that the group has run into trouble with the US Food and Drug Administration over one of its asthma treatments. Almost 4.5 millionshares changed hands.

Heavy turnover was reported in W H Smith as the price eased 2p to 414p. Cazenove, the broker, is said to have arranged a deal in 3.5 million shares, paying 407p, before seiling them on at 410p. There was also a cross in 4.97 million shares at 415p. A total of 17.3 million had been traded at the

The continuing strength of the bullion price turned out to be good news for producers of the precious metal. The price rose \$5.50 to a five-year high of \$414.50, after touching \$417 an

The US Barrick Gold Corporation, the biggest producer outside South Africa, recently decided to buy back almost six kets. This latest flurry of



A five-year high in gold perked up the producers

activity benefited the likes of RTZ, up 34p at 950p, and Lourho, 7p stronger at 217p. It also proved to be good news for Bakyrchik Gold, the British company exploring for the metal in Kazakhstan, which closed sporting a rise of 45p at

490p.
The food retailers had to contend with another twist of the screw as J Sainsbury emothers and reduced its profits forecast for the year just drawing to a close by E8 million to £682 million. On Wednesday, NatWest Securities cut its forecast for

Tesco by £9 million to £678 million and for 1997 from £763 million to £738 million. It blamed the impact of the petrol price war and lower

Lucas Industries rose op to 204p. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, calculates the group's aerospace interests, which are expected to be sold within the next few years, are worth about £600 million against a total stock market value of El.7 billion. Smiths Industries and TI Group are tipped as possible bidders.

barked on a new series of price cuts. Its February Bonus scheme offers cuts of between 25 per cent and 50 per cent on 200 own-brand lines and follows hard on the heels of its January Savers. Sainsbury is clearly aiming to try to snatch back market share. The company said it had been delighted by the response to the January campaign. Its shares closed unchanged at 39lp. Tesco came under renewed

pressure, falling 5p to 287p as

than expected sales growth from new floor space.

Argyll, the Safeway supermarket chain, touched 3172p, before ending the session down 9p at 319p as one seller failed to unload a line of five million shares at 317p. By the close, just two million shares had changed hands.

There was another burst of speculative buying in Standard Chartered, the internstional banking group, as the price surged 17p to 648p.

MOVERS	OF THE WEEK
current price pric	Heer's change - Demerger proposals - 28p

shares revolves round the words "formal" and "infor mal. Earlier this week, th group denied having any for mal talks about a possible takeover, or acquisition of a sizeable stake in the company. The latest reports suggest that it has had informal bid talks with National Westminste Bank, lp dearer at 667p.

Shares of Blagg, the build ers merchant, were suspended at 172p pending a reverse takeover by Freepages, the privately owned freephone in-

formation group.
Under the terms of the deal, Blagg will issue 250 million new shares worth £30 million. Some 83.3 million shares will be placed at 12p each, to raise £10 million, with a further 34.4 million issued for a share potion scheme for company employees. The enlarged company will boast a stock market value of £44 million.

One casualty of the day was Dawson International, which fell 14p to 97p after warning that profits for the current year were likely to fall short of City forecasts. Brokers had originally been looking for an outcome of £15 million

A profits warning left Aimlisted Satellite Communica-tions Systems 8p down at 98p. The group says 1995's trading losses will be heavier than expected and blames the delay in reaching satellite receiving equipment installation levels. It expects to be profitable by the end of the current year. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Investors endured a volatile session that saw losses at the longer end extend to more than £1 in places. Prices in London opened lower, reflecting weaker overseas bond markets.

The rout continued in late trading, leaving prices at their low point of the day. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell £2932 to £1091116 in hectic trading that saw 92,000 contracts

Attempts at a raily after publication of the latest US payroll

numbers proved short-lived.

At the longer end of the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 tumbled El's to El003132. while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £716 off at El04716.

☐ NEW YORK: Profit-takers

were in evidence after the week's climb, and, by midday, the Dow Jones industrial aver-

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	New York (midday): Dow Jones5402.17 (-2.89) S&P Composite638.14 (-0.32)	
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	Singapore: 2468.17 (+1992)	
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Corlect	234p (+12p)
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Beliway	270p (+11p)
RTZ	951p (+35p)
Mersey Docks	44 tp (+16p)
Johnson Matth	584p (+20p)
Moriand	828p (+20p)
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Reuters	639p (+18p)
Refuge	441p (+11p)
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Shield Diag	. 135p (+8p)
Granada	733p (+18p)
FALLS:	
Dawson	97p (-14p)
Frost Group ,	

Closing Prices Page 41

. 278p (-10p) . 278p (-10p) . 279p (-10p) ... 626p (-9p) ... 319p (-9p)

TIMPUS

How not to build Alliance

ing towards the Stock Exchange to list their shares. The prospect of a painless gain will ensure that Alliance & Leicester depositors vote in favour of conversion, but that is no reason to be optimistic about the long-term future of an Alliance plc.

Every building society trots out the same reasons for flotation. Sure enough, this week A&L pointed to the need for access to wholesale money markets and argued that listed shares will enable A&L to raise capital to support growth and make acquisitions.

A&L is starting up its own life insurance business, but the society knows that success in pensions requires a big name and the acquisition of a pensions business must be high on the agenda. If all this sounds familiar, it is because the route is well trodden.

AS IF panicked by the prospect of a Labour However, A&L with its 4 per cent of the election win, building societies are stamped-mortgage market, offers few special attractions and the contraction of the mortgage market, offers lew special attractions when compared with the retail market clout of a Lloyds Bank or Halifax.

To be fair, A&L has better reasons to float than Woolwich. With Girobank under its wing. A&I has a large number of pure banking customers and boasts a big cash management operation. It could be argued that a diversified business needs an investor base prepared to take on greater risks.

But these are sidelines for a business with Miance resport

70 per cent of its capital tied up in mortgages, a commodity product suffering ever greater competition. There is an alternative strategy.

Merger with another building society, combined with a drive for lower costs, would enable it to offer better rates. Unfortunately, A&L seems determined to chase the great share-owning democracy into the sunset.

Graseby

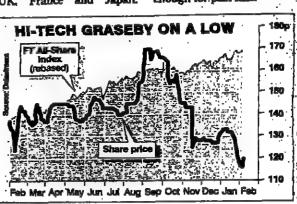
SHARES in Graseby, the electronic instrumentation company, are marooned on a three-year low. An erratic trading history followed by a November profit warning persuaded at least one institution to sell in recent weeks.

Graseby's problem is that its high-tech products look attractive on paper but are too often regarded as optional extras, items that fail to survive budget cuts in tough times. Chemical warfare monitoring instruments and food impurity detectors might be standard equipment on the Starship Enterprise but get short shrift from financial directors.

However, there is reason to believe that Graseby is building up a core of reliable sellers. The decline in defence spending has bottomed out and order inquiries are in-

creasing. While spending is a Graseby now has its eyes on unlikely to return to the the huge American health unlikely to return to the market, with an acquisition boom levels of the 1980s. or joint venture to add muchgovernments must replace needed muscle. outdated monitoring equip-

The troubled environmen ment over the next few years. tal division is being kicked The medical division ofback into shape and is probfers the best way forward. The company's drug delivery ably destined for disposal in the next couple of years. system is becoming a medi-Graseby has been punished cal necessity, selling in the UK, France and Japan. enough for past sins.



Dawson Intl.

THE sudden cold snap has come too late to help Dawson International, the textiles and knitwear group that owns the Pringle brand. Yesterday, it added a further dose of gioom to the warning issued ast November: sales have been decimated by aggressive destocking by US retailers, and its UK businesses have been hurt by poor sales in a warm autumn. Lack of demand has backed right up the chain to the fibres and varns business.

Dawson has virtually written off the current financial year as the one when Christmas did not happen. Analysts who were expecting profits in the £15 million range cut their forecasts in half, and expectations for the six months to next October are modest. Dawson has been badly hit in the US, where discount multiples, such as Walmart, have almost handcuffed their buyers

in a bid to rid shelves of unsold stock. The drastic action means that Dawson was unable to recover any ground during America's Christmas freeze

To add to Dawson's miseries, efforts to sell five US factories were set back when a purchaser falled to complete on a contract, leaving the group with higher borthan expected. Dawson has enough on its hands trying to revive the fortunes of the Pringle brand. Trying to sell thermal undervear to fast-moving retailers in the US is a different sort of business and it is scarcely surprising its fingers have been caught as the Americans slammed the door. This

Farnell

THE sheer size of Farnell Electronics's bid for Premier has given some shareholders the jitters, and, last week, rumours abounded that votes

could be a slow recovery.

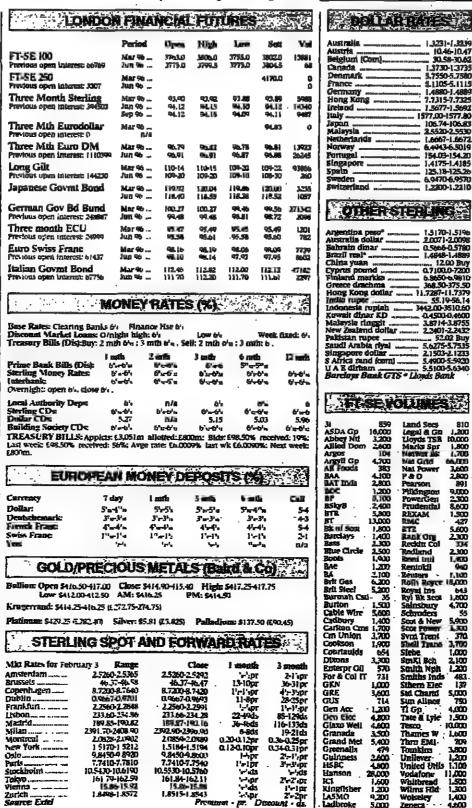
would be cast against the deal. A good look at the two companies suggests that that would be a mistake.

Doubters point to the price, which values Premier on a multiple of 24 times prospective earnings. Clearly, the dilution from the £350 million rights issue and extra borrowings will depress earnings in the current year but no deal should be predicated on a one-year view. Assuming minimal benefits from the merger, shareholders who subscribe for rights at 540p are paying only 12 times earnings in January 1998. hardly expensive.

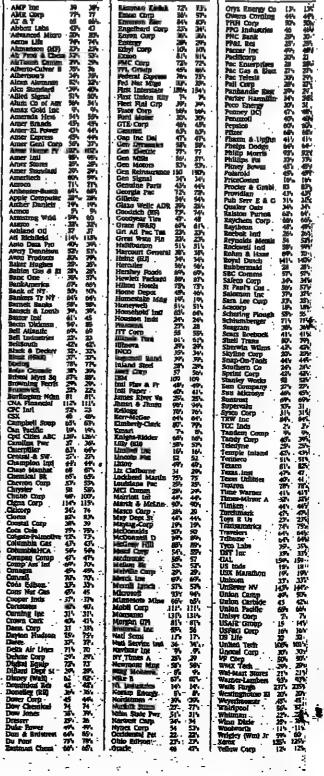
Perhaps the real worry is the notion that Farnell's manegement are getting out of their depth in a huge American deal. However, Farnell's team has yet to slip up. It is not embarking on a new almost identical to its own, with room for improvement. in both margins and sales. Edited by Carl Mortished

	COMMODITIES	
LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	ICIS-LOR (London 4.00pm)	GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
DOCOA	CRUDE Of LS (5/barrel FOB)	WHEAT BARLEY
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May 937-936 Jul unq	Breni Li day (Apr) 10.20 -0.05	May 125.15 May 110.00
Jul 458-457	W Texas Intermediate (Mari 17.85 tn/ci	Jul 127,10 Sep
Dec 995-994	W Texas Intermediate (Apr) 17.35 -0.10	Sep
Mar 1021-1019 Volume #363	PRODUCTS &/MT)	Volume 272
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May 1893-1890 Jan 1806-1785	Gasofi EEC 170 (+4) 171 (+3) Non EEC 1H Feb 168 (+3) 170 (+4)	Mar unq 200.0
Jul 1840-1839 Mar 1610-1780 Sep 1815-1814 Volume: 4355	Non EEC 114 Feb 168 (+3) 170 (+4) Non EEC 114 Mar 157 (-6) 159 (-5)	May
	3.5 Fuel Oil	Volume: 199
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RE-EMERGING 37

Investors begin to look East once again

WEEKEND MONEY

TESSA TIME

The second Weekend Money special guide



Alliance chief urges patience over flotation

Anne Ashworth says investors must wait to see how they will benefit from the free shares

attence is a quality that will now be required from each of the three million members of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society. Although they are all eager to know how much they will. receive when the society floats on the stock market in mid 1977, their curiosity must re-main unsatisfied until the

Peter White, the society's chief executive, has pledged that he will not disclose the exact terms of the free share distribution until the deal has been approved by the Building

This means that savers and borrowers cannot discover whether the society plans a Halifax-style deal, involving a basic distribution to all members, plus an extra variable distribution for some savers with more than £1,000 invested. Though it has been suggested the society could have in mind a basic distribution only, giving all qualifying borrowers and savers the same amount of shares, Mr White would not comment on this, or any permutation.

He explains that he does not wish to raise false hopes among customers, citing the discontent that arose among members after a High Court ruling which disqualified 384,000 borrowers and 100,000 savers from the £1.8 billion payout.

In spite of Mr White's vow of silence, a few small details have been made available. Only borrowers and share account holders who were on the Alliance & Leicester books at December 31, 1995, will be entitled to free shares. They must remain with the society until the flotation and its conversion to a bank.

in a significant concession, setting the Alliance & Leicester apart from other flotations, those share account holders who had balances of less than £100 at December 31, 1995, will be allowed to replenish their accounts up to the £100 limit, so qualifying for a vote and free shares. They must put the money into the account 56

days before the voting date.

The society says that, so long as they act by the summer, they should be ensured of their share of the windfall. If somehow they fail to do so (an expensive mistake), they will be entitled to the statutory cash bonus which will also be on offer to children.

The booklet now being sent to all Alliance & Leicester members sets out no fewer than 45 main share accounts, including the Bonus 90, Bonus 180, Instant Access, Keysaver, Midas and Tessa. The society

the days before the merger of the Alliance with the Leicester in 1985 do not appear on the list but still qualify for free shares. In the past, the Alliance & Leicester was famed for the speed in which it launched and then withdrew accounts confusing many customers.

Like depositers with the Halifax and the Woolwich, the million or more Alliance & Leicester customers who have only a deposit-type account and are not borrowers are not eligible to vote and will not qualify for the free shares or a cash payment.
Alliance & Leicester deposit

accounts (another lengthy list) include the Prime Deposit, Keyway and the Alliance & Leicester Giro Current

This last piece of news will come as a blow to the 1.3 million holders of this accounts and the other Girobank customers who may have presumed themselves to have a relationship with the society.

Aware of the controversy,

Mr White and his fellow executives say one aim of the flotation is to give equal status to all the group's customers, members and non-members. But this is unlikely to pacify the Girobank customers.



Woolwich woes are mounting

The rising tide of frustration with the Woolwich continues this week with more complaints from readers about their treatment under the terms of the flotation. Some are angry at the scheduled to take place until the end of 1997, while one reader, Lord Col-eraine, a solicitor, who challenged the Abbey National during its flotation over the qualification of children for shares, questions the Woolwich's logic in making Decem-ber 31 the cut-off date.

When announcing the society's plans, Peter Robinson, Woolwich managing director, accused the 30,000 people who had opened accounts in the three days prior to the announcement as "carpetbaggers". Lord Coleraine cannot under-

stand why these people should be penalised, whereas those who opened their accounts in December are not.

In a letter to the society he said:
"You will understand as well as I do that the investors who joined your society in the first days of this year are no more carpetbaggers than those who joined in December. acting possibly on inside information, but certainly with a more sophisticated knowledge of the effect of section 5 and schedule 2 of the Building Societies Act 1986, than the man in the street, whom your managing director so roundly castigates. It would be interesting to know to what extent the membership of your society increased during December when compared with other months."

David Adams, another Woolwich saver from Solihull, is setting up a protest committee to try to get the society to act fairly.

He said: "I think if you have an account you ought to benefit from the shares, regardless of whether you have less than £100."

CAROLINE MERRELL

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

More homes will go as aid cuts bite

enders are using recent. government cuts in state support for borrowers as a lever to speed the process of repossessing the homes of people already struggling to make mortgage payments, it

emerged this week. Housing advisers say more people will have their bomes repossessed more quickly as the new regime starts to bite. The evidence is bearing out their fears of last year when the extent of the cuts became clear.

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The Council of Mortgage Lenders says the number of households repossessed last year was higher than it might have been without income support cuts. It published fig-ures this week showing 49,410 homes were repossessed last year, against 49,210 in 1994.

The National Council of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Nacab) says its advisers are

finding borrowers excluded from income support for mortgage payments under the new rules are coming under increasing pressure from lenders. Liz Phelps, Nacab's social policy officer said:

There is no clear pattern but we are seeing evidence with existing borrowers already in trouble that if income support is not being paid, this is the

Time to talk_

last straw. We are also seeing cases where borrowers cannot pay anything for eight weeks before they qualify for income support] and lenders are threatening repossession".

Phil Harris, adviser at the Colchester Mortgage Arrears Forum, said: "The first stage is those who are in the [arrears] pipeline now who

are not able to maintain their mortgage payments. There will be a breakdown in cases where lenders are in long term negotiation because there cannot be any certainty among lenders that the mortgage will be paid." He added:
"There will be a second stage where people with minor ar-rears become dependent on benefits long term and they don't qualify for income sup-

port. We are beginning to get the situation we anticipated". Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, introduced cuts to income support for mortgage payments last October. They had a dual purpose to cut the El billion annual bill for income support on mortgage payments and to persuade more people to take out private insurance, as part of the . Conservative privatisation of the welfare state. Anyone taking out a new mortgage or remortgaging after October 1 1995 then losing their job or falling ill must wait nine months before getting state help with their mortgage. Those who already had loans before October I last year but claim after that date will get nothing for two months and only 50 per cent of their interest paid for the next four months. Income support for mortgage interest is now calculated at a standard rate of 8 per cent, rather than the actual rate borrowers are

charged by lenders. Housing advisers say the changes make it almost impossible for III or out of work borrowers without savings to avoid getting into arrears before income support pay-INCRES SCOT

SARA MCCONNELL

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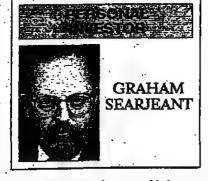
Veteran message for savers

ach year, at about this time,
Barclays de Zoete Wedd delivers a simple, powerful message to City investors. It is nearly always the same and applies to private investors too. Over the long term, you would have earned better returns from investing in company shares than in any other common financial asset such as building society deposits, gilt-edged or index-linked bonds. Unless you think something fundamental has changed, shares are likely to build up your longterm savings better in the future too. The message is powerful because de

Zoete, broker forerunner of BZW, started this annual report on past returns in 1956 and has taken many of the calculations back to 1918. If a tax-free fund invested £100 in equities in 1918 and re-invested all the dividends, it should now have an investment worth £617,000. In gilt-edged, the money would be worth £8,300 and if kept in cash (placed safely in the money markets) just £3,700.

The bulk of these increases are eaten up by inflation. Taking that out, equities still averaged an annual real rate of return of 7.8 per cent, gilt-edged 1.9 per cent and cash 1.5 per cent. Figures differ for other long periods but the comparison holds. When inflation was high, giltedged and cash failed to maintain their real value even with income rolled up.

Most private investors pay income tax. Even the return on equities derives mostly from their dividends, but allowing for income tax only brings down the returns. It does not after the pattern. Since 1960, equities returned an annual



4,5 per cent in real terms with income rolled up after basic-rate income tax. That is a lot better than gilt-edged produced without deducting tax. A building society deposit with interest paid net produced minus 1.7 per cent. No wonder marketing rivals and humble salesmen alike are prone to borrow BZW's charts and tables to plug any

equity-based product. Why should any-

one invest in anything else? There are two reasons. Most investors are not trying to build the biggest possible capital fund over 25 years, let alone 77. The calculations are nothing like so simple if you need to get the best sustainable income in retirement, to keep money aside for an emergency or want to save over five years to buy a new car or put down a deposit on a house for most recent decades a better home.

than any financial investment. You do not get something for nothing in investment. There is a price to pay for equities better performance higher

risk. Any standard-rate taxpayer freakishly unlucky enough to put their all into shares at the 1968 peak and sell at the end-1974 trough would have been left with E27 of purchasing power for every £100 invested. The inflation-ridden 1970s were bad for most investments. but over those six years it would have been far better to keep the money in a building society. Indeed, capital put into shares when they went too high in 1968 did not regain its buying power until 1993. Today, share prices look slightly above their long-term trend.

ZW points out, however, that investors have been paid handsomely for that risk. The more of the performance you can capture, and the more of the risk you can lay off, the more attractive shares become to build savings. The figures assume you spread the risk over many shares. The risk also falls the longer your time horizon. It probably outweighs the advantages over one year, rarely over 25. You avoid the 1968 trap if you invest a little each month, quarter or year. Investing a lump sum at one go is riskier. Sellers of unit-trust savings plans have also long trumpeted the useful quirk of "pound cost averaging". Your money buys more shares when prices are below trend than when they are toppy. To capture gains. avoid high charges, which plagued personal pensions, plough income back and use tax-free vehicles.

Regular savings using a low-cost personal equity plan or pension plan to invest in unit trusts still look hard to beat - if you are truly patient.

Morag Preston finds owning a pony calls for a tight rein on costs

A suitable case for horse sense

some parents must dread hearing, particularly since few children will take into account the high costs involved.

For most parents, the realisation that they will be the ones to end up braving the cold and mucking out the stable comes long before any consideration of cost. Financing the latest addition to the family is an expensive after-thought, however, but one that could offer the perfect opt-out clause.

It's like running another car," says the British Horse Society, which has more than 65,000 members, of whom 90 per cent are female.

On top of the initial purchase price, anyone who owns a horse will have to think about upkeep, which includes bedding, feed, shoe-ing, routine vet care and insurance. According to Russell Baldwin & Bright, pur-veyor of horses, 1995 was their worst sales year.

The British Horse Society says: "Horses start at £500 for something a bit little and might cost \$1,000. And a supercharger with a bit of oomph might cost £2,500."
The price of a horse de-

pends on performance, breeding, height and age. A horse will always cost that bit more than a pony.

It costs as much, or even more to keep a bad pony as a good one, bearing in mind that a bad one will be difficult to resell. Buyers are advised to have the horse vetted, to take it home on trial, or to seek a second opinion, although the seller might not always agree. Some of the best horses are sold on by word of mouth, or are advertised in local equestrian

Excluding livery, the cost of keeping a horse is £170 a month. says the British Horse Society. "People think it's like keeping a dog, but they don't realise that horses need their feet seen to at least every six weeks, and you can't just feed them

Full livery can cost as much as E70 a week, while half-livery costs between £30 and £50, where the owner is required to ride and perhaps groom the horse. If the owner



Nearly a Tiz-was: Trudi Williams's pony Tizzy had a brush with death when it was let out of its field on to a foggy motorway

horse, it can cost between £10 and £20 for grass livery, with a further £10 for a stable. Keeping a horse at home is

THE GOSTS Bedding Feed Hey Famler Wormer insurance Rouline val care Lessons Extres for ridar/horse Total Cost (without livery)

only feasible where there is secure fencing and more than two acres of land, but this may work out cheaper in the ions

Quality and simplicity are the key to buying equipment for a horse, but buying second-hand can cut costs by almost 50 per cent. The price of tack varies enormously from £7 to £15 for

a head collar to £350 to £450 for a new leather saddle: It is always advisable to buy new yard equipment, includ-ing a first-aid and grooming kit, which will cost around E75. A hard hat, which costs be-

tween £30 and £55, is perhaps

£900 veterinary fees TRUDI WILLIAMS was in the news last December when

her pony was let out of its field in Whitstable, Kent, along with two other horses, which were killed instantly on a foggy motorway. Tizzy, Ms was brought safely back to its field, but was forced to spend a week in Newham Veterinary Court Hospital with a fractured bone and severed

The vers bill came to £900,

Insurance pays for

tled through Petplan. "This is only the second year that. Tizzy has been insured, and this is the second time that she has been to the vet," says Ms Williams, 21, who has owned Tizzy for four years. "I'm just relieved that I have

It costs Mx Williams E140 a year to insure Tizzy, who is worth £500. The policy in-cludes death, theft, third party liability, personal accident veterinary fees up to £2,000,

INSURING a horse and protecting your investment s an important cost factor that is too easily enored. When money is . ight, insurance is one of the things that people cut back on," says the British Horse Society, which highlights the importance of public liabilty cover. "It's mportant in case your horse hits the side of a Mercedes or injures somebody when you are out on a ride. It happens Petplan, the largest equine insurance specialist in the United Kingdom, says that fewer than 50 per cent of horses and ponies are insured. "We have discovered that multiple owners are less likely to insure all their animals. the insurer says. Petplan offers a range of cover, as well as tailor-made olicies. Third party liability is relatively inexpensive, and is usually included in most insurance packages. More than 80 per cent of vet fees and they are the most important part of the cover, says Petplan. Among the other big equine insurers are E&L Insurance and South Essex Insurance, Bankers Equine Direct, the only direct writer in the equestrian market, which claims to insure more "Our biggest market is the riding club type of person who rides for pleasure, as opposed to Generally, they are insured for up to £15,000."

A QUESTION OF MONEY

The correct line on running a lottery syndicate

Biriends, family or work colleagues to play the National Lottery as part of a syndicate, you could increase your chances of winning tenfold. If you and nine friends put £1 in each week, you will have an equal share in ten sets of numbers. So if your group won a jackpot of £2 million, your share would be £200,000.

There have already been about 122 winning syndcates at jackpot or bonus level, according to Camelot, the organiser, which says 30 per cent of sales every week go to syndicates. But, unless you take the appropriate precautions, syndicates can turn the best of friends into week, Weekend Money offers some timely advice.

How does a syndicate Q get started?

Decide exactly who is going to take part in the syndicate, and appoint a manager. This person will be responsible for the run-ning of the group, purchas-ing the tickets, and the collection, as well as the division, of any winnings. Then draw up a comprehen should be signed by a responsible witness or lawyer, and make a photocopy for. every member. If the group changes, a new agreement should be drawn up.

they want publicity in the

event of a big win.

What should the What should agreement include? A The agreement should include the date and the signature of each group New policyholders will member. The appointed receive three months' free cover at E&L Insurance, manager's name should also be noted, alongside his or which says: "Because of the massive steps forward her own signature. Make a record of how the numbers where veterinary medicine will be selected each week. Note how much each memis concerned, the terinary fees for ber will pay per week, and individual claims have the corresponding percentage share of any prize. The agreement should also intended to be higher." insurance cover for their ciude a ciause outlining horse should look for a what happens if a member policy that suits their forgets to pay. Members particular needs, but also should also put in writing if

How do you play in a group?

A There are two ways: weekly or as a multi-draw. To play weekly, the appointed manager should take the group's completed payslips to a National Lottery retailer and pay for them to be entered. A multidraw allows the same numbers to be played every week for up to eight weeks. To ensure the choices are entered automatically for the chosen number of draws, the manager should tick the appropriate box in the col-umn marked Number of Draws" on the payslip.

Q How do you run a syndicate group?

Mhenever the manager collects the money. weekly or monthly, a record should be kept of who has paid what. After the manager has purchased the tickets a photocopy should be made for each member and the originals kept in a safe place. The manager should write the syndicate members' names and addresss on the tickets. Any winnings should be collected and shared out according to the agreement.

What precautions can What precautions be taken by the company employing members of a syndicate?

For less than the price of a National Lottery ticket, employers can protect themselves against financial loss after a sudden walkout successful syndicate members. Fielding Mann, a Leeds insurance broker, has underwritten 220 policies since it set up in January last year, in association with Lloyd's of London, to meet the cost of drafting in new staff. Premiums start at £50, and the limit of indemnity is up to £300,000, or more on quest. Only two syndicate members need to resign. Fielding Mann says 28 policies were signed at the last lottery rollover. Fielding Mann: 0113 2390 330 Camelot: 0645 100000

MORAG PRESTON

Focus shifts from first-time buyers

The emphasis on discounts and remortgaging means that rates for first-time buyers are not what they used to be.

Patrick Bunton, of London & County, the firm of mortgage brokers, says: "It was always assumed that first-time buyer rates would be lower, but that distinction has now gone. Instead, you have to find a lender who will let you borrow as much money as you need."

First-time buvers are an unknown entity to mortgage lenders because they have no track record to offer. And just as direct insurance companies give large noclaims bonuses and avoid the statistically riskier young customers, so direct mortgage lenders, too, are careful to pick safe

Their rates for borrowing 95 per cent of the cost of the property are uncompetitive, Lenders change tack to court safer borrowers.

writes Sarah Jones

and their better rates have low maximum advances. One exception is First Direct's 6.95 per cent variable rate for a 95 per cent

Similarly, some of the best fixed and discount rates have low maximum advances. The Hinckley & Rugby 0.5 per cent one-year fixed rate has a maximum advance of 70 per cent, as does the National Counties 1.5 per cent discount for five years.

So where can a first-time buyer find a good rate? It tends to be very expensive to borrow the total value of your property. The Bank of Scotland does offer a 100 per cent loan - but at a variable rate of 7.99 per cent. It would be better to take a cheaper 95 per cent advance, borrowing the remaining 5 per cent from elsewhere.

If income is tight and a borrower needs to budget, London & Country suggests the Northern Rock's five-year fixed rate of 6.99 per cent. With that solution, even if rates shoot up after the next general election, mortgage payments will remain

If a borrower can be more flexible, the Coventry's 1.25 per cent discount off base rate until 2000 is worth considering. It means lower payments than with the Northern Rock at the moment, but if interest rates go up, borrowers would need to be able to cope with higher

Loan sum adds up to confusion

provides a reliable and

efficient service.

long with compulsory building insurance, it seems that you now need a sound knowledge of algebra

to get a good mortgage rate. A Times reader recently asked Cheltenham & Gloucester, his mortgage lender, why the monthly payments he makes for his fixed-rate mortgage are being varied by the society. The lender's explanation is shown in the illustration.

What the lender was trying to say is that Miras, mortgage relief, has been reduced twice since he took out his fixed-rate mortgage and that this will inevitably alter his repayments. Because he is on an "annual instalment review scheme", he did not immediately start paying the extra interest caused by Miras going down. So, for a while, he was paying less than he was being charged. It was all rejigged at the end of the year and the extra interest

Lender's formula for Miras calculation

he had yet to pay was slapped on to his statement, making the capital sum he owes appear greater than it was two years ago. They used the formula, above, to

calculate his new repayment instalments. "I happily now accept why my mort-gage payment changed," says our reader.
"I'm just bemused that my fixed rate is not fixed and the capital I owe is now greater than when I started, and it's all worked out by this extraordinary formula."

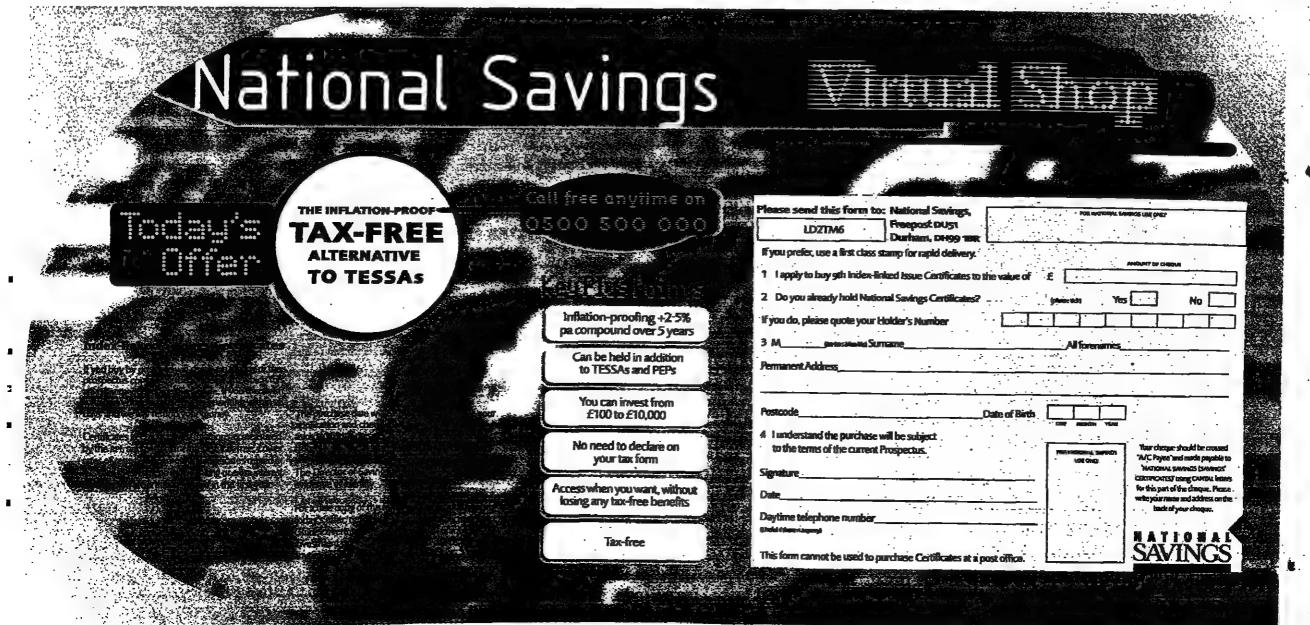
The lender did provide a key to the formula. A = balance of loan, i = interest

limit of tax relief, and t = tax rate. Debi Isaac, of Cheltenham & Gloucester, said: We used the formula to illustrate to him that he is paying the correct instalments. It may look ludicrous out of context but it makes sense within the full explanation our customer received."

rate, n = remaining term of years, L

Most mortgages come within the Miras (mortgage interest relief at source) scheme which allows you to pay a reduced level of interest to your lender. That currently means you pay 15 per cent less interest on the first £30,000 of your loan. The lender in turn claims the shortfall from the Inland Revenue. The relief was reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent in April 1994 and subsequently to 15 per cent last

SARAH JONES



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Fitz would break the silence of the lambs

The bosses of the Alli-ance & Leicester Building Society have obviously been watching too many TV police dramas. many TV police dramas. After a surfeit of Cracker. they have become hooked on suspense and have come to believe that their customers share the same weakness.

Fitz, the bulky psycholog-ist, embodied by Robbie Coltrane, would put them right. in a few blunt words. In real life, people prefer certainty. When the Alliance &

Leicester confirmed its plans to seek a stock market listing this week, few details were available. The all-important structure of the share distribution remains a secret. This means that no-one knows whether long-term savers with four-figure balances will receive a greater reward. Or whether every qualifying saver will be treated equally. The



COMMENT ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance

Editor

Alliance & Leicester's patron-. ising refusal to elaborate onits plans contrasts markedly with the Halifax and the Woolwich, the other societies. destined to become banks. Recognising their members' right to information, both outlined how they would divide the spoils.

Of course, no saver at either society yet knows how many free shares he will receive. But the terms are clear. The Alliance & Leicester, which has been seriously considering conversion for several years, has little excuse for being unspecific. It cannot argue that its scheme is still being drawn up, especially as it aspires to become a quoted company

before its two rivals. The society claims that it wishes to spare the three million members the pain suffered by those who were suddenly excluded from the Cheltenham & Gioucester payout. But it also has on its mind the already considertwo million customers who cannot benefit, including the Girobank faithful. They maintain that the acquisition of Girobank gave the Alliance & Leicester the muscle to

achieve its current position. The Alliance & Leicester hopes it will lessen the offence given to this group if it stays silent for as long as possible about the size of the windfalls. It would be better to come clean now and offer those who cannot join in the fun a discount on the shares at the stock market debut.

Climate of fear

The financial habits of the nation are nowadays as frequently surveyed as those of the sexual sort. In the main, this money-management research tells

ever, a report from the Associ-ation of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (Autil) does give food for thought.

Callers to Autif's information service were quizzed on their plans for retirement. Among this group of people already interested in investment, more than half of those over 35 had no idea how they would fund their retirement. A lack of pension planning was most marked among all the women respondents.

This level of ignorance is alarming. It also shows that insurance companies and company pension schemes are failing to promote properly the need for retirement provision. One sad consequence of all the pension scandals seems to be that people are as fearful of the means of pension savings as



Heavy costs: living near a motorway makes transport easier - for thieves especially

Even in the city, slip ups can so easily be avoided. If you're not careful, those first steps into the tax-free savings world of PEPs can seem a trifle complex and, worse still, paved with hidden drains on your investment. But there is a simple wav around the problem. The Scottish Investment Trust PEP. NO ENTRY COSTS, EXIT FEES OR MINIMUM TERM ANNUAL FEE JUST £30 PLUS VAT FROM JUST £100 PER MONTH SCOTTISH INVESTMENT ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INVESTMENT TRUSTS TRUST GLOBAL INVESTMENT SPREAD Soul His Junger In Customer Services,
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Highway robbery premiums

Marianne Curphey on the rise

in motorway getaways

illions of people who reach of a motorway are at a greater than average risk of being burgled, research by insurance companies has

Cities like Bristol. Birmingham and Oxford are popular with organised gangs. who stage early morning raids and then drive back to London or other big cities to sell stolen goods in pubs and car boot sales in the afternoon.

Since their booty is sold on so quickly, it makes it more difficult for the police to trace. The Association of British

Insurers says towns on the borders of the M25 and with connections to the M3, M4. MII and M40 are at risk, as are Scottish towns within easy reach of the North East of England. Royal Insurance, with one million UK motorists and 25 million homes on its books, said the problem is

growing.
"In the old days criminals lived and burgled locally," said Roy Randall, head of communications. Now the pattern is changing and they are travelling further afield. are bearing the brunt of this."

In addition, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Avon, the counties surrounding the M4 between London and Bristol, are notorious for computer chip theft. With the advent of new technology, insurers are now able to make very detailed assessments of your chance of being burgled. The Royal now uses a database to analyse risk by looking at postcodes, which breaks down areas into units as small as 15 houses.

"It is possible you could be paying less than your neighbours in the same street and the difference in premiums within one borough could be as much as 10 to 15 per cent. We have 1.6 million post codes on our database and we can identify, for example, whether your home backs on to a school playing field. If it does, it might carry a greater risk because of easy access for burgiars," Mr Randall said.

Though it is difficult to find an average premium because rates vary so widely, for a Victorian three-bedroom detached house in a town like Reading, a 15 per cent difference in price could mean £22 more or less on a basic £150 buildings premium. The Royal also applies postcode ratings to the one million motorists it insures, since vehide theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United

Direct Line, the direct insurers with 750,000 homes on its books, says analysing risk for well as for household contents by using the full postcode and not just the borough, is becom-

ing increasingly widespread.
Though we do not use full postcodes in all areas, they are useful in places like London where some homes are built on hills and the clay soil underneath is very susceptible to subsidence in the hot wea-

Simple question.

tax through schemes such as Personal

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need to - to give you some idea, the Equity Plans, TESSAs and personal

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ther. Likewise, a home close to a river is at greater risk of flooding than one three quar-

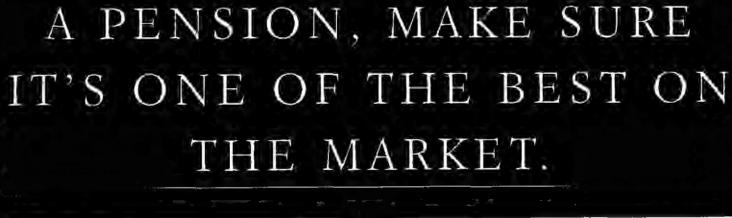
ters of a mile away," it said. New technology has also brought more sophisticated ways of detecting fraud. The Royal uses an image-processing system which can tell whether invoices or quotations for repair work have been tampered with in order to increase the claim.

"Industry research has revealed one in four claims are fraudulent in some way, but by detecting fraud we can help to keep costs down and ensure innocent policy-holders are not paying for other people's dishonesty," Mr Randall says. Insurance firms with large

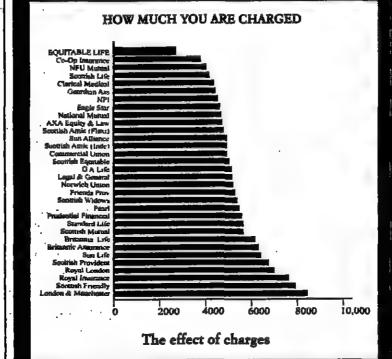
databases can track policyholders who make multiple claims, or spot patterns of

The Royal gives a 5 per cent discount to householders who are members of a neighbourhood watch scheme, and a further 15 per cent if you fit a burgiar alarm.

If, you are prepared to haggle over the premium you are offered, and you are prepared to pay the first £100 to £500 of any claim, your insurance company may agree to reduce the fee in order to keep you as a customer.



IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY



INVESTMENT TRACK RECORD

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you

consider when making your choice?

Price, performance and flexibility are perhaps the key indicators that will enable you to differentiate the wheat from the

PRICE

New rules came into force this year which require companies to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £200 pm, 10 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Management, October

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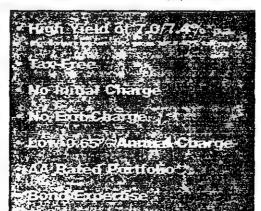
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Marianne Curphey considers the rates now on offer from National Savings

Many happy returns for investors who played safe

tion in interest rates for cates, thousands of savers will have a cause for celebration in the coming weeks. These are the people who invested in the 35th issue of fixed-rate certificates five years ago and locked into a rate of 9.35 per cent.

Their funds are maturing between now and the end of March. Though at the time the rate looked rather miserly, compared with the building society variable rates of up to 15 per cent, as interest rates fell it became increasingly attrac-tive. Now every £1,000 invest-ed has grown to £1,574 and the interest is tax-free and waiting to be collected.

National Savings products are backed by the Government and are regarded as a safe form of investment. They guarantee a return of your capital, plus varying rates of interest, depending on the type chosen. They are a huge source of revenue for the Government and contributed £2.8 billion to funding in the tax year to April 1995. This year that figure is expected to rise to £3 billion. Currently, 30 million people have National Savings prod-ucts and their holdings are worth E54.5 billion.

One of the advantages of National Savings certificates is that they are tax-free - they compare favourably with most which take tax off before you receive interest. For higher rate taxpayers the tax advantages are even greater. Interest

certificate, and you get it when you cash in the certificate. Savers benefit from Nat-

ional Savings when the Treasury needs money and sets rates high. But rates are subject to political pressure and the Government has just announced it intends to reduce prompted by the fall in yields on gilts, which are fixed-interest stocks issued by the Government, and by the cut in the bank base rate.

Some changes will be immediate, others will come into force next month. So are the National Savings products still competitive, or would savers be best advised to look

PREMITIN BONDS

the expense of the growing number of small payouts of £50 and £100. From May, the number of prizes will be limited to 350,000 a month and the interest rate on Premium Bond investments, used to fund prize money, will be cut from 5.2 to 4.75 per cent. National Savings says it has increased the size of prizes in response to customer demand.

FIXED BLASS

Savings certificates: The 9th Index-linked Issue certificates are now on sale and offering a return of 2.5 per cent per annum compound on top of the rate of inflation, compared with the 8th (ssue, which was pegged at 3 per cent and is no longer available. The minimum investment is £100, up to a maximum of £10.000, and must be held for five years. The new 43rd fixed rate issue will pay 5.35 per cent a year compound if held for five

years, down half a point.

The latter is still a good investment, says David Wells of Binder Hamlyn, the inde-pendent financial adviser. For a higher rate [40 per cent] taxpayer to match a 5.35 per cent tax-free rate, he or she would have to find an investment worth 8.92 per cent before tax. With the indexlinked issue, if inflation remains at 3.2 per cent, the return after five years is 5.7 per cent, which to a higher rate taxpayer is worth 9.5 per cent. It inflation rises, this investment will give you an even

He believes savers who can afford to take a five-year view should also be looking at investing in tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas -see the Weekend Money Guide with today's paper) and personal equity plans (Peps).

Capital bonds: These bonds, which have a minimum opening balance of £100, have fallen 1.1 points to 6.65 per cent



National Savings products have always been safe and sound but are they still competitive?

compound, if held for five years. They are paid gross, but the interest is taxable. Likewise, rates on Children's Bonus Bonds, which are taxfree, have fallen I.I points to 6.75 per cent on investments between £25 and £1,000.

David Wells still believes the Children's Bonus Bonds are a good investment, as they remain the market leader.

Pensioners guaranteed income bonds: The new issue, Series 3, now pays gross, taxable interest of 7 per cent (down from 7.5 per cent) over five years. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broë describes these bonds as "ultra-guaranteed, but not very exciting". He says their worth depends on the direction of interest rates over the next five years - if they fall, then 7 per cent looks like a good deal.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, announced in his last Budget that the qualifying age Pensioners Bonds was being reduced from 65 to 60. Anyone who wanted to take advantage of this and planned to transfer out of existing Income Bonds into Pensioners Bonds will still be allowed to buy into Series 2, with its rate of 7.5 per cent, provided their applications to do so were

First option bonds: These pay gross rates guaranteed for a year at a time. For investments of between £1,000 and E19,999 the rate is 6.25 per cent (down 0.15 of a point), while above £20,000 it has fallen 0.3 of a point to 6.5 per cent. Marion Coss, of Sedgwick Financial Services, says these bonds are an advantage to non-taxpayers because they remove the hassle of having to claim back tax aiready paid.

VARIABLE RATES National Savings variable rates, meanwhile, look less

competitive and poor in com-

societies. From March 1, the National Savings ordinary account will pay 2.75 per cent (down I point) on balances of E500 to E10,000. Bristol & West's postal account, meanwhile is paying 5.75 per cent gross on balances of more received by January 25. than £5,000.

After basic rate tax at 25 pe cent this would be worth 4.3 per cent. However, come April savers will see tax on their interest drop to 20 per cent after measures to reward savers in the Budget. Northern per cent gross on balances of £25,000 in its 120-day notice

parison with postal accounts

from some of the building

postal account. Income bonds, which are a three-months' notice account paying gross interest, are now paying 0.25 per cent less interest. Between £2.000 and £24,000 the rate is 6.25 per cent, rising to 6.5 per cent for amounts between £25,000 and £250,000.

Find out why pension plans are not all the same.

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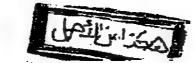
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When it's good to talk

Sara McConnell

explains the reasons for

repossession

and the easiest

ways to avoid it

You miss a mortgage payment and your lend-er writes to you asking why. What do you do next?

A You should reply to the letter, even if your instinctive reaction is to throw it in the bin and forget about it. If you ignore the first letter you will get another in about two weeks, asking what is going on, followed by a series of letters at approximately weekly intervals. The tone will become less concerned and more threatening. You will stop being addressed by your name and become Sir or. Madam. The lender's solici-tors will take over, threatening court action to repossess. The more problem lenders have making contact with you, the more aggressive they are likely to be in the long run. Keith Tondeur, director of Credit Action, the educational charity, says: "The best thing to do is get the lender on your side... You could even go so far as to warn it in advance if you hear there could be redundancies at your firm. The lender could suggest an adjustment of mortgage payments to help."

The reason why you can't pay your mortgage is because you have lost your job. Where do you go from

You should sign on imm-.



Nowhere to go: the misery of homelessness as vividly portrayed in Cathy Come Home

mortgage payments. Even if you have received a redundancy lump sum and so have too much money at the moment to qualify, signing on immed-iately could prevent delays in income support: when you come to claim. You should be

benefit. You will not qualify for income support if your married partner is still working, even though your mort-gage was calculated using both your incomes. If you have your loan, you should claim at

for a payout, and delays in claims delay payouts: Income support will pay you nothing for the first

have to wait at least a month

will get it eventually. How tan you manage now!

A This delay is bad news, particularly if you have few savings and your redundancy payment was small or non-existent. You will almost certainly slip further into ar-rears. Even if you have avoided your lender until now, you should start to negotiate. You can negotiate at any stage, even when you face a court hearing. You should also talk to your local Citizens Advice Bureau or your local authority debt advice service. If you have mortgage debts, you are probably having problems with other bills as well. Check you are claiming all the benefits to which you are entitled.

You get a summons to the county court from the lender's solicitor. Is this

Your arrears are rolling up and you are falling further behind with payments. But you can still negotiate with your lender. Contact the lender directly rather than the lender's solicitors. Before you get to court, try to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau's office at the court. It may be able to represent you and will try to get you a suspended posses-sion order, allowing you to keep your home as long as you pay the amount set by the court for a certain period of time. The court does not have the power to dismiss the arrears or decide you can pay less than at least the mortgage you are meant to be paying. Alternatively, the judge can throw out the possession altogether (unlikely) or grant the lender repossession in 28 days. Credit Action: 0800 591084. Citizens Advice Bureau: see your local phone book.

What words describe the inflation of the second on our manager meane OT BLOW HIS PLANT

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tAt 15th January 1996, a £1000 investment in the Global Advantage PEP at launch in September 1990 would be worth £1974.92, and the same amount invested in the income Advantage PEP at launch in January 1992 would be worth £1636.92. A PEP is invested in a unit trust and the value of mits can go down as well as up and as a result there is no guarantee that your initial investment will be returned. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to fixture performance. Tax relief may be altered and the value to the investor depends upon their financial circumstances.

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A policy of response to criticism

enders and insurance companies are being forced to review the terms and costs of private insurance to cover mortgage payments after fierce criticism of existing policies. Last October's cuts in income support highlighted the inadequacies of policies which did not cover existing borrowers or the self-employed, did not pay out for up to sky months and were too expensive for many borrowers on top of mortgage payments. Research, most recent-ly on behalf of the Department of the Environment, found that two thirds of the claims made on mon-

gage payment protection policies were rejected.

Now insurers say they are trying to make up for past fallings. Steve Devine, strategic development manager of Pinnacle insurance, which underwrites large numbers of policies for lenders, says: "One thing that's emerged out of all this is that insurers have a perception and image problem with the pub-

lic. Insurers have to get their act together." The Association of British Insurers, the industry's trade body, has put together a code of practice under which companies should explain conditions and exclusions clearly to borrowers and commit themselves to assessing claims promptly and efficiently.

There is some evidence that cover and costs are

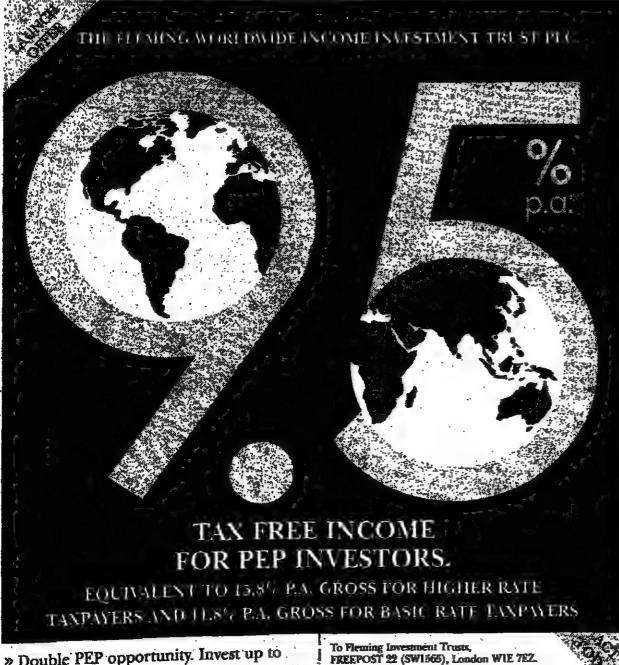
adapting to the new regime. Two societies, the Skipton and the Market Harborough, now offer their existing and new borrowers free unemploy-ment insurance for the term of the mortgage. The policy will pay the mortgage only to cover the nine-month gap until borrowers can claim income support. The Skipton policy will not start paying until a borrower has been unemployed for two months, while the Market Harborough will not pay out until one month is up. Both societies believe benefits them as well as borrowers if they can avoid

the costly process of repossessing homes and trying to sell them in a dead housing market. According to Mr Devine, most lenders now offer

existing borrowers cover as well as new borrowers Some, including Lloyds Bank, Commercial Union, Midland, General Accident, National & Provincial and Birmingham Midshires, have portable policies for borrowers who have their mortgages with other

But critics of the policies say cover on most policies is still too restrictive. Self-employed or contract workers, for example, often have to demonstrate that their contracts have been renewed without a gap over a set period before they qualify. To claim, self-employed people may have to show that they have told the Inland Revenue that they have gone into liquidation.

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Caroline Merrell on the shake-up of a trust group after more than 100 years

When investors have to cope with a break-up

investment trust groups will bring to an end more than 100 years of association with the investment trust

The management of the fivestrong investment trust range, with about £370 million in assets from thousands of investors, is in the process of being auctioned off to pay for the expansion of the remaining business in other areas.

agement (RMIM), is spirning off the management to build up a new unit trust operation. Already, the income trust has gone to Jupiter and the American trust has been passed over to Henderson Touche Remnant. It is rumoured that River & Mercantile Trust itself is about to be snapped up by

The sharp change in direc-

POLICY

Robert Fleming, the invest-

CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT?

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the River & Mercantile the investment trusts, River & tated by the acquisition last year of a 49.9 per cent stake in RMIM by John Beckwith, a property developer.

Mr Beckwith has an option

to buy the remaining part of RMIM, which is owned by the £200 million River & Mercantile Trust. The trust is the jewel in the River & Mercantile crown and can trace its roots back to 1881, when William Gladstone was Prime Minister. It was set up to provide funds for the development of industry in Argentina,

Other investment trust managers are circling round to try to buy up the funds either to increase their funds under management or to try to fill a gap in their fund range. A change in fund manager

does not need shareholder approval, only the board of the narticular investment trust has to agree to the transfer. The seemingly less important action of changing a trust's name does need shareholder approval. It is a condition of the transfer that all five investment trusts change their



sands of investors with River & Mercantile expect under the new arrangements? This week, Henderson Touche Remnant announced that it

had taken over the running of River & Mercantile's American fund. The fund will fill a gap in the Henderson Touche Remnant stable — it is unusual in not having a specialist

ames de Sausmarez, Henderson Touche Remnant Investment Funds managing director, said it would ofter investors in the £28 million fund the opportunity trust comes to the end of its life

in three years.
The fund manager also pledged to reduce the discount on the split capital trust, which is currently around the 30 per cent mark. The fund will be managed by Christo-pher Galleymore, head of Henderson's North American

Mr de Sausmarez said: North America has been a significant gap in our range of managed investment trusts and we are delighted that R&M have decided to join us and fill that gap." Mr de Sausmarez said he

would consult the shareholders about what form the new investment vehicle would take, adding that it would not necessarily be offering a split apital trust as the successor. Mr Galleymore was optimistic about the prospects for the US market this year. He

has managed to outperform S&P 500 index by i per cent a year over the past ten years. The only change proposed for those invested in the River & Mercantile's £75 million

extra income fund is a change of name. John Duffield, Jupiter chairman, said Jupiter was in the process of writing to shareholders to get approval for the name change. The shares in the fund are now trading more or less at par to

Jupiter is taking Anthony Nutt, the investment trust manager, from River & Mercantile. Mr Duffield said: There will be no change in the investment trust strategy. The wind-up date of the fund is in four years' time.
The fate of the remaining

two trusts is yet to be decided. Hambro Magan, the merchant bank carrying out the the two remaining funds. Guinness Flight is believed to be the lead contender for the management of the R&M Smaller Companies Trust.

The carve up of the invest ment trust group has left many analysis baffled. After all, they point out, it is perfectly possible for investment trusts and unit trusts to coexist within the same fund manageof the investment houses that run both types of fund.

Rob Robertson, Kleinwort Benson's investment trust analyst, said: "The whole thing could be seen as a revenueraising exercise to fund expan-

sion of the business. There is a general consensus among analysis that the investment trust market is set for rationalisation. Funds trading at big discounts could be the target for fund managers looking to increase their funds under management. The attraction for investors is that they could benefit from a

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while Marianne Curphey gives a progress report on a venture capital group

Adventure with a new 3i Pep

he venture capital com-pany, 3i, which brought Allders, Laura Ashley, Waterstones, Denby Ponery and Prontaprint to the stock market, is about to relaunch its own personal equity plan

More than 500 private investors aiready hold the 3i group investment trust shares in a general Pep (it is not eligible for the single company Pep) and most of them joined last July after a change in the rules under which trusts qualified as Pepable.

3i aims to invest in small unquoted companies with potential to grow and to lend them investment capital to expand. The company, once called Investors in Industry and established in 1945, invests more than £1 million every day and has supported more than 1,300 management buyouts and over 300 buy-ins.

Since its flotation in July 1994, the value of its shares has risen 53 per cent, while that of the FTSE all share index has risen 22 per cent. After coming to the stock market at 272p, its shares are now trading at about 411p, after reaching a high of 444p last November.

There is no initial charge to set up the new 3i Pep, but there is a management charge of 0.5 per cent each year and a 0.25 per cent levy on the value of shares bought or sold through the plan.

Recently, 3i shares have been edging lower. One of the reasons was Midland Bank's decision to sell 30.7 million shares, 5.3 per cent of 3i's share capital, worth £120

So have we seen the best of the trust's growth, or is there more to come?

lain Scouller, investment trust analyst with SBC Warburg, believes the shares are "pretty dull" and are unlikely to show much movement unless smaller companies in general are rerated in the market. He also suspects Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland may wish to follow Midland's example and sell their stakes, worth a combined 8 per cent of share capital, which would further depress

His recommendations for those investors keen on small-er companies would be invesco England and International; NatWest Smaller Com-paries and Hoare Govett Smaller Companies trusts.

Matthew Orr, of Killik & Co, the broker, says 3f has been a tremendous stocess since it was floated and has a very diverse portfolio. He becompanies, which failed to match the strong growth of the FTSE 100 index of leading shares last year, to catch up in

"3i has a good geographical spread with offices around the country and, unlike many venture capital companies, can afford to be choosy about the enterprises it backs. I am bullish about the UK stock



Waterstone was one of 37's better-known launch successes

market this year because I shares in issue). Ordinary shares will be issued at 100p believe interest rates and inflation will continue to fall, which per share, with one free warwill boost equities," he says. However, for investors allomed looking to invest in small ment of £1,000, the trust will

companies, he also recom-mends the Invesco English and International trust (currently trading at 148p per share), and Montannoro UK Smaller Companies, a relatively unknown trust launched last year currently trading at a discount to net asset value. This means the shares are selling for less than the trust's underlying assets are worth and may indicate that they are a worthwhile purchase.)

Deter Walls, investment trust analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, says 3i shares are "not a bargain" for investors because they are still trading at a slight premium to their net asset value,

However, over the last 12 months the premium has come down from 14 per cent to around 4 per cent now.

He suggests that if investors do buy into a 3i Pep, they should be prepared to hold the possibly ten, to take full advantage of tax-free growth.

He says: "It is a solid but nies may start to pick up in 1996 but will probably not do so well in 1997.

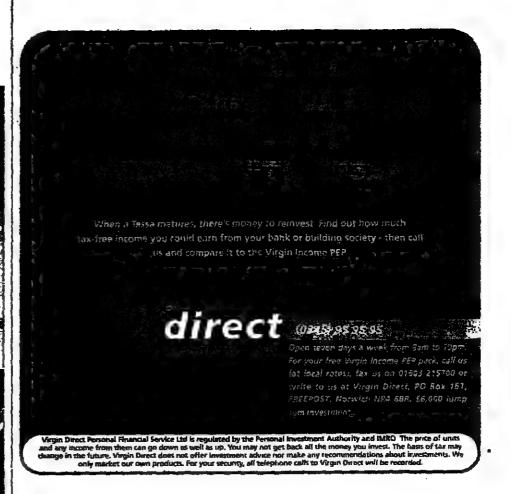
In the context of the FTSE all share index I would rate the 3: investment trust as medium-to-low risk. If you are looking to buy into venture capital I would recommend Murray Ventures, which does larger and fewer deals than 3i.
This trust's shares are currently trading at a 15 per cent discount to their net assets value and are likely to do better than 3 m the next

couple of years."

Meanwhile Hill Samuel Asset Management is launching a UK emerging companies investment trust which will invest in about 40 quoted smaller companies, mostly with market capitalibelow 550 million (Market capitalisation is calculated by multiplying the share price by the number of



Investors can now have designs on Laura Ashley, thanks to 3i





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ividends are small payments that often Granada's bitterly fought takeover of Forte, the hotel group, the special dividend payments promised to Forte shareholders was an important part of the package that helped to swing the vote in

Granada's favour. The level of dividend payouts made by the privatised utilities has also been in the spotlight, with electricity and water companies provid-ing some of the best dividend returns in the stock market.

What is a

Publicly quoted compan-A Publicly quoted compan-ies share part of their profits with shareholders by way of dividends. For each share held, a dividend of a specified amount is normally paid. The payments are usually in two stages. The first is made after the company announces its half-year or interim figures, with the final dividend figure given with full-year results. Shareholders vote on the proposed payouts at the company's annual meeting.

How are dividends paid?

A Payments to browning shareholders are made

know to get a bigger slice of the investment cake

Clare Stewart tells shareholders what they need to



after those due to preference shareholders. Payments are made net of tax, with basicrate tax deducted in the form of advanced corporation tax paid by the issuing company.

What if I, as a shareholder, do not pay tax?

The dividend payment comes with a tax voucher.

claim back the income tax paid at 20 per cent. Do I pay more if I am a

stating how much has been

deducted. Non-taxpayers or

those on low incomes can

Q higher rate taxpayer?

If you are a 40 per cent income will be liable to a further 20 per cent tax, with dividends added on to your

total income. If, for example, you received \$4,000 in dividend payments, on top of other earnings totalling £22,000, the extra tax liability would be £340, arising from the £1.700 of income tax at 40 per cent. This applies in the current tax year where the threshold for 40 per cent tax is £24,300, rising to £25,500 in 1996-97. Dividend income has to be declared on

What are special or super dividends?

annual tax returns.

These have hit the head-A lines recently with a number of the regional electricity companies such as Yorkshire and East Midlands giving shareholders an extra lividend on top of normal payments. Companies makng these payments may be looking to return surplus cash to shareholders, a move that will serve to boost the attraction of the shares, or the payment may be given in the course of a takeover battle.

A company fending off a hostile bid might promise extra dividends to its shareholders as part of a neward ackage to help to ensure their

Forte in its bid to fight off Granada promised to raise the annual dividend by 20 per cent year until the end of the decade. Granada countered by raising its initial offer for Forte to £3.74 billion and included the option of a special dividend of 47p per Forte

For mon-expaying "shareholders such as the pension funds, that 47p would be bumped up with a tax credit of 12p — no small sum consider-ing the millions of shares held by these big institutions.

What does ad mean in

share price listings? if xd appears next to a share price in newspaper listings it means ex-dividend. That is to say if you had just bought the shares you would not be entitled to the most recently announced dividend

A This is a measure of the return provided by dividends on your share investment, and used as one of the measures of a company's performance. Newspaper share listings will show a yield figure that will vary with each price change.

If, for example, you bought shares in Sprocket Ltd for 500p and received a dividend for the year of 14p gross, the yield would be 28 (14p as a percentage of 500p).

A high-yielding share might indicate better immediate returns, but could also mean that the company is showing only slow profits growth. A low-yielding share might be seen as a company promising substantial profit growth and dividends in the future.

These assumptions can be that dividend payments are variable and at the company's discretion. So they could be influenced not just by profitability but by other factors such as the threat of a

What is meant by dividend cover?

This can be read as an A indication of the company's financial health. The dividend cover is calculated by dividing the available net prof its by the total cost of the dividend payments. If Sprocket showed a net profit of £22,000 and decided to pay out £6,000 in dividends, the dividend cover will be 3.6 times.

The higher the figure the healthier the business looks. though there are occasions when a company continues to pay a dividend even though it is making a loss. If it believes its losses are only temporary it may well draw on its reserves to meet the dividend payment. hoping to reassure shareholders and prevent the company's share price falling sharply.

Do companies have to pay a dividend?

Dividend payments are optional payments made by the company directors though the failure to pay is clearly going to diminish the attraction of the shares and therefore knock the share price. A decision may be taken o pass or reduce the payments the profits have fallen, companies again might seek to reassure shareholders by forecasting a return to dividend payments by a centain date.

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What is a scrip dividend?

Shareholders may be given the option of tak-ing the dividend in cash or subscribing for an equivalent value in shares. .

Where can information on a company's dividend performance be found?

Annual reports will usually detail the company's performance in terms of profits or losses, dividend growth and share price performance over a five-year period.

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Emerging into favour

fter two years in the doldrums, emerging markets have started the year with a bang, encouraging investors to turn their attention back towards Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Jean De Bolle, global portfolio manager at Foreign & Colonial emerging markets. notes: The sentiment clearly turned during December and that has continued through the new year. Most emerging markets are up 5 per cent, and many are up 10 per cent in US dollar terms since the start of the year. And they are still quite cheap on a relative basis."

But with the memory of Mexico's financial collapse still fresh, the faint-hearted would do well to steer clear of emerging markets - those countries in which the economy has not yet matured, such as India, Thailand, Chile, South Africa, even Greece or Portugal.

Such investments usually involve buying the shares or either based in an emerging market or does the bulk of its business in one. For private investors, the easiest way to put money into an emerging market is through a specialised investment or unit trust

Because of the rapid economic growth, emerging market investments can provide far higher returns than investments in more mature, and safer markets. According to figures from Micropal, £100 invested in an average emerging market fund in January 1990 would have grown to 1292.39 by January 1996, compared with £213.39 for the average UK equity growth unit trust. The discrepancy between different emerging market funds, however, is enormous.



The same amount invested in top-performing Genesis Chile Fund would have risen to £737.04. At the bottom of the performance table, £100 in BMf Indonesian Growth fund

would have dropped to £44.67. However, experts are optimistic as a growing number of countries in Eastern Europe. Latin America and Africa appear to be on the road to

stability. Richard Luddington, head of emerging market debt syndicate at J P Morgan, says: The current, relatively low level of international interest rates and the expectation of sustained growth rates for emerging markets, especially when compared with G7 countries, are making people feel pretty bullish in 1996."

Among those in favour, Europe has been strong for several months, and Foreign & Colonial believes that the future looks bright.

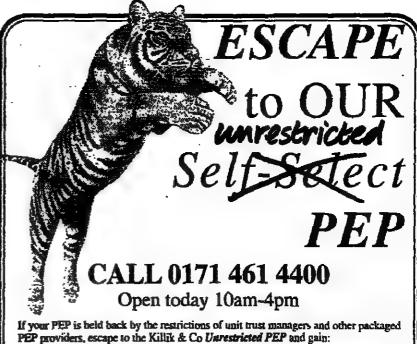
Latin American markets suffered last year by their association with Mexico. This year, Mr Luddington expects slow but level growth from Argentina and Mexico after last year's negative growth. Investors are also increasingly optimistic about the prosepcts for Chile, Peru and Brazil.

In 1995, Africa enjoyed a ear of unprecedented growth for foreign investors, with returns, in US dollar terms, in the region of 40 per cent. The lifting of apartheid in South Africa has proved the catalyst for change throughout the region. African countries are edging towards more realistic exchange rates, lifting exchange controls and removing subsidies and price controls. all of which makes for a better investment environment.

prisingly well," says Mr De Bolle. The political risk has diminished and the new ANC Government has shown itself very capable of managing the

Later this year, Mr De Bolle ever, remains an enigma. The advantages of the country's rich resources have been more than offset by its crumbling tions and political instability. Some problems that faced investors have been resolved but, with a presidential election looming, the consensus is that investors should watch rather than jump in.

One lesson that came out of Mexico, says Mr Luddington, is that investors should pick than put their money into a region. "Make sure you read as much of the available economic data on the individual countries as possible. That way you can compile some sort of batting order in terms of preference for investments. Above all, make sure you achieve a balanced portfolio in terms of geographic risk.*



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lidelity, the world's largest independent fund management company, launched its Triple Performance Pep last week, aimed specifically at the "more so-phisticated investor".

The Fidelity Triple Performance Pep combines topperforming funds - Special Situations, European Trust and South-East Asia Trust within a Pep portfolio. For the first time, the South East Asia Trust is available within a Pep at a lower initial charge than the standard 5.25 per cent unit

Investors who take a Triple Performance Pep in the 1995-96 tax year, at 3 per cent initial charge and 1.5 per cent annual -management fee, will have the opportunity to invest in a new Pep in 1996-97 with no initial charge. The minimum invesiment vestor using their full allowlance for the current year and next can invest up to £12,000.

The current Pep market is two thirds income and one third growth, according to Barry Bateman, president of Fidelity Investments Europe,

Pep with mix of funds for astute investor

Pep and unit trust investors are looking for capital growth. Mr Bateman adds There has recently been a proliferation of Peps emphasising income from UK investments. but Fidelity's experience is that more than half of all the should really be using capital-

growth Peps.
"The funds in the Triple Performance Pep have an outstanding track record.

higher end of the risk scale, so the usual caveat applies that past performance isn't always a guide to future growth. The dividend yield is less than I per cent, so in the short term, you will be saving little in-

COURT COLK." The portfolio split is 50 per cent Special Situations Trust, which has grown 2,553.3 per cent since its launch in December 1979. It was voted "unit trust of the decade" by Micropal, after it outper-formed all other unit trusts

over 10 years from its launch. The European Trust, of which the portfolio split is 25 per cent, has grown 739,6-per-cent since its launch in November 1985. Fidelity claims it is the best performing of all

Asia Trust - an area of key economic growth over the last 10 years. It has grown 624.8 per cent since its launch in

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVI

Abbey National cuts savers' rates

counts, which means an average decrease of 0.25 per cent in interest for savers. Savers' rates have been implemented at the same time as the latest mortgage rate reduction, also of 0.25 per cent, announced in

The new rate for an Instant Saver with £10,000 in his or her account is 3.45 per cent per annum, compared with a previous return of 3.75 per cent. For a Regular Saver with £10,000, it is now 5.55 per cent. Abbey National's Postal Ac-count annual rates will be effective from February 12.

■ Direct Line Financial Services are launching a telephone savings account called the Direct Line Instant Access Account. Savers will be able to make transactions over the telephone, and money can be moved into and out of the account without notice and without losing interest.

The account includes an interest-maximising facility, which will allow savers to pool the balances held in separate accounts of family and friends, and earn interest at the rate applicable to the combined balance. For cus-

ABBEY NATIONAL has tomers wishing to segmen introduced new interest rates their savings, the "Jam Jar on its range of savings ac- money management service is available, Account holders can store their savings in up to 20 sub-accounts to suit their needs. To open a Direct Line Instant Access Account, call 0181 667 1121 (London) or 0141 221 1121 (Glasgow).

> Investors have a tendency to focus on yield when making their purchase decision for looking the fact that the potential a fund may offer is strongly linked to the risks inherent in its make-up, ac cording to Allenbridge, the Pep analyst.

Risk Evaluator to aid investors with risk assessment is now available from Allenbridge. It includes de-tailed research on 14 top Pep recommendations. The various risks assessed for each fund include: sensitivity to interest rate movements, credit risk to measure the likelihood of default by the issuer of the bond, the level of liquidity and diversification. For a free PEPTALK package, including the risk evaluator, call 0500

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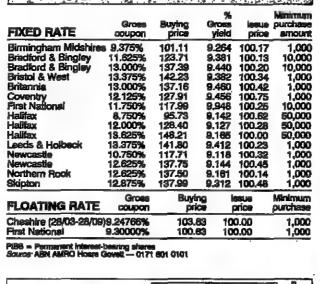
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PrudentialLevel		£8,897	€9,454	£10,281
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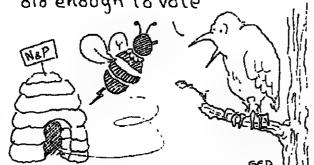
Societies blind to innocent eye

From Miss H. A. Bolland Sir, As teenagers we are encouraged to save money in bank and building society accounts. We are enticed with free offers and gifts, such as CDs, driving lessons, etc. We are encouraged to own plastic hole-in-the-wall cards so that we can withdraw money at

In my own case. I have had two accounts with the N&P Building Society. These accounts are in my sole name. I am the only person able to pay moneys into these accounts, or withdraw from them. Apparently, I am legally entitled. and thought responsible enough to handle my own finances, although, by person-al preference, I do not have a

plastic card. Imagine my total disgust, therefore (as a consequence of Abbey National's takeover of N&P), when I was informed by Lord Shuttleworth, chairman of the building society, that, as a consequence of my being under 18. I do not have a

I reckon ... if they're old enough to know all about us, they're old enough to vote



vote, and therefore will miss out on the sweeteners being paid out to voters to entice them to vote in favour of the takeover

Surely, if we teenagers are old enough to open and manage our own accounts, if we are old enough to have plastic cards, if we are old enough to use our own signatures, then we are old enough to vote? Surely, the consequences of this vote will have as many ramifications for our money as it will have on our elders and peers?

What right have building societies to disenfranchise us from something which they enticed us to join in the first place? If they are happy to take our money, why won't they take our democratic decision? Perhaps they fear the inno-

cence of youth seeing straight through their greed. Yours sincerely. HELEN A. BOLLAND. 15a Middleton Road, Middleton, Near Morecambe,

From Mr J. Pincham nsion was not attractive

The widow of a colleague in a subsequent pension scheme lost her pension rights because her husband, dying from a brain tumour before reaching 65. failed to give notice of early retirement. Should I become afflicted with a fatal complaint before that magical age, I hope to have sufficient time and wit to give the appropriate notice. Giving notice now would deprive me of the terminal bonus. Yours faithfully, JOHN PINCHAM. 35 Lodge Close,

From Mr J.B. Hoyle Sir. I read with some dismay the article by Sara McConnell on the future of Premium Bonds (Treasury to cut back on Ernie's nice little earners. Weekend Money, January 27). The fact that the upsurge in purchases followed the introduction of the El million jackpot does not surprise me. However, that the majority of customers preferred more medium and larger prizes to the inevitable detriment of the number of prizes seems to me to take the response of customers at face value. I wonder if those surveyed had been

aware that more large prizes

would mean a reduction in the number of prizes, whether their replies would have

changed purchased a large block of Premium Bonds just over a year ago. This was the result of reading articles that stated that if the maximum holding was purchased it was likely that a prize would be won each month. The implication being that with a little luck you ought to produce, at least, similar results to placing the money in a huilding society and there was an outside chance of a very good return. The changes have changed the probablilities and Premium

New odds mean buying a Pep is better bet than Premium Bonds Bonds are no longer an investment but a pure lottery. It seems to me that the money will be far better, with these new odds, to be used to purchase a Pep. Yours sincerely. JOHN B. HOYCE. 22 Montfort Road.

> Letters are welcomed but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought

Coleshill.

Birmingham.

You just can't count on benefit

From Mrs M. Shimmin Sir. My husband took early retirement in 1991 and his company pension became payable immediately, albeit at a reduced level.

When he tried to register for unemployment, having paid NI contributions for 40 years, he was told that the company pension rendered him not entitled to unemployment benefit because it took his income over the limit allowed. He has never been registered for unemployment, although he has sought work since this time, so will never appear in any government statistics. I suggest that he and many like him might constitute the "gap" in the official (and conflicting) unemployment figures. Yours faithfully, M SHIMMIN. In Castle Street. Ludgershall, Hampshire.

Pension wrongs

Sir. Leaving a public company in 1971 after 19 years, my pension rights were lost. Yet. at the prospect of staying for a further 26 years to get a good

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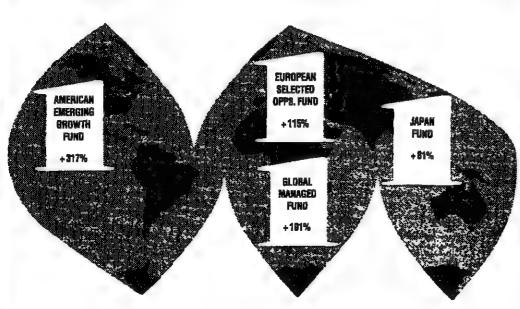
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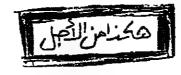
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By PETER BALL

DAVID BATTY'S future at Blackburn Rovers is looking increasingly uncertain. Although Ray Harford, the manager, denied reports that Batty had failed to report for training last week, the England international midfield player was again omitted from the squad for the game against Bolton Wanderers today.

"At no time has David Batty been absent without leave." Harford said yesterday. "At no time has he been forced to train with the kids, and at no time have Batty and I had a row about team selection." The player has, however,

been unhappy since being substituted in the FA Cup defeat by Ipswich Town and further comments by Harford yesterday suggested that there "You look at players in training, you look at them on fitness, attitude and application in training, and you make your judgment on whether they should be in the squad or not." he said. "And I don't feel that David should be."

There has been no suggestion that Batty is not fit and vesterday, with rumours of a move to Newcastle United persisting, he was still in the players' room when the squad

began training.
Meanwhile. Blackburn's annual report provided a telling commentary on how their fortunes have changed, with their turnover — £14.1 million - showing an increase of 80 per cent on last year. Their trading profit. discounting transfers, was E605,000, compared with a loss of more than £900,000 a year ago.

McManaman shines on centre stage

Oliver Holt finds

the England player revelling in his free

role with Liverpool

Steve McManaman sits outside the clubhouse at Liverpool's Melwood training ground and gets busy living up to his reputation as the club's most laid-back player. His answers to questions are interrupted by constant teasing from his team-mates but he laps it up. "Don't worry if you fall asleep while he's talking to you," Rob Jones says. "I've woke him up twice already." shoots back. McManaman

He can afford to be relaxed about things these days. He has gone from a talented bitpart player who seemed destined to become an infuriatingly inconsistent contributor to the team to the man who makes Liverpool tick, the very heart of the side. When McManaman has not performed this season, Barnes, Fowler et al have not played to their potential either.

His form has taken him into the England team, too, although Terry Venables, the national team coach, insists on using him in a more rigid position on the left side of midfield rather than in the free role the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has granted him. Of late, his grip on a place in the national side has been undermined by the emergence of Steve Stone, a player more suited to the traditional demands placed on a wide man.

But as McManaman's form has propelled Liverpool into the midst of the championship race, ahead of Manchester United and their opponents



today at Antield, Tortenham Hotspur, it has become obvious that he has outgrown the label of a winger. He does not even play on the flank any more. More often than not, he picks the ball up deep and then runs at defences, opening up spaces for his colleagues to expluit. "Steve McManaman can run faster with the ball than most of us can without it," one of the Rochdale players

on the wrong end of a 7-0 FA Cup third-round thrashing said last month. "I have never really classed

myself as a winger," McManaman said. "As far as I'm concerned, there are far better wingers in terms of getting to the byline and getting crosses in. I don't think that is one of my strengths.

"I like to get involved in the game more. That is why this

free role here and having the licence to roam has been so great. With England. I can't go roaming too much because, with other people in fixed positions, you would leave them totally isolated. In my case, it would have been Stuart Pearce. You have got a job to do for England but at Liverpool, there are five at the back and the rest can just float

McManaman, bright-eyed, articulate and amiable smiles as Evans, standing a few yards away, sings his praises and talks again about the free role and how he thinks McManaman should have it in the national team, too.

If anything bothers McManaman, it is his lack of goals. The path to newspaper headlines and the enforced attention of the England coach, he knows, is through the back of the net and he has scored only six times this season. Stone has shown him the way in that. .

"I definitely have to score more." he said. "I should be getting into double figures every year without a doubt. But I'm not the best in front of goal. Robbie Fowler's a complete natural and I'm not. It's not nervousness because I'm possibly the most laid-back player at this club, everyone will tell you that. It is just getting in the right position at

is heroes, Duncari McKenzie and Bob Latchford - McManaman was a true-blue Evertonian until he joined Liverpool on a YTS scheme were both goalscorers but at Anfield he grew up under the early tutelage of Steve Heighway and the Liverpool religion of pass and move.

Goalscoring came later.

"Pass and move is bred into you from an early age here," he said. "I never had any individual coaching from Steve about wing play because I had never picked out wingers as heroes. I just liked skilful players. He never said to me 'this is how you beat a man'. Some people can just do it."

On the evidence this season, McManaman is one of the

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Nigeria ban casts shadow

By ROB HUGHES, POOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AFRICA'S football overlords ning to see South Africa take chose yesterday, the eve of the on Tunisia. One should per-African Nations Cup final to kick Nigeria out of world football from now until the next century. In doing so, they usurped the revivalist nature of South Africa, playing Tunisia in the final today, and, worse, they placed political titfor tat above sport, offering a reminder that, with Nigeria's withdrawal before proceedings got under way, this tournament had been devalued from day one.

The statutes of Fifa, football's world governing body. decree that it must now banish the Nigerians from at least the next World Cup, after the announcement that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has suspended the country from the Nations Cup tournaments of 1998 and 2000. The decision was inevitable as soon as Nigeria failed to arrive in South Africa to defend the trophy that confirmed their status as the the continent's best team, but officials had almost three weeks in which to announce this judgment, so why on earth did they do so on the eve of the final?

Sadly, those punished are players such as Daniel Amokachi, of Everton, and Finidi George, of Ajax — players who are entirely innocent. They had wanted to perform, but their country's military dictator. General Sani Abacha, used them as his political reprisal to Nelson Mandela, the president of South Africa, who had called for sanctions against Nigeria after the hanging last November of nine dissidents.

In Nigeria's absence, there will be 80,000 people in the Soccer City stadium this eve-

haps shrink from prejudging Tunisia, remembering the precision of their counterattacks and their four goals against Zambia in their semifinal, yet this young, totally home-based team is up against all manner of disadvantages. For example, their hotel supposed to be ready for them when they arrived in Johannesburg, made them sit around for five hours before rooms were found. It is an off-the-field version

of the unfairness that opponents have found on the field against South Africa — in the semi-final, for example, Ghana had a goal disallowed when an overhead kick by Akkonor was deemed dangerous; in the same game, South Africa celebrated when John "Shoes" Moshoeu scored with bicycle kick.

Moshoeu is a story in himself, a black player overlooked in Soweto, made to go to an obscure club in Turkey before he overcame his unassertive nature and thrust himself into the international reckoning. He has scored four times in the tournament and, with the inspiring white de-fender. Mark Fish, has been symbolic of Mandela's new rainbow" nation.

The pugnacious South Afri-ca coach, Clive Barker, said to Mandela at the start of the tournament: You are an inspiration to us - we won't let you down." Indeed not. While England complain that five years out of Europe have ruined their chances at that level. South Africa are on the threshold of conquering their continent after 30 years in the

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FUTURES

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Man City 24 6 8 13 14 34 21 Covernity 24 4 8 12 31 48 20 OPR 24 5 3 16 18 36 18 Botton 24 3 4 17 23 46 13 Endeleigh insurance League That diverton (10) Barnsley v Watford (11) Gransby v Derby (12) Huodersleid v Tranners (13) Ipswich v West Bromwich (11 15 pitch inspection) (14) Leicester v Luton (15) Sheffield Utd v Oldham . . (16) Southend v Milwaii

FA VASE: Fifth round: Banaload Alln v Peacohaven and Trombe Belgor Town v Citheroa Brigg Town v Tratford Collier A v Analog II, Platon - Berwell, Vivenhoo Town

v Toppont A
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division:
Atomgton Stanley v Bishop Aud-land,
Barriber Birdgo v Knowsky, Buron v
Emley: Blyth Spatton v Cotheyn Bary
Baston v Choloy Budton v Guceley,
Emplesen v Martie Gaansborought v
Westorn, Mattock v Hyde, Spernymoor v
Frackley, First division: Alfreton v Gretha,
Adstron United v Raddiffer Bradford Ph. Are
v Great Heurood Congleton v First-Mooth
Processor Varmington v Curzon Ashton,
Mintey Bry v Leigh, Workington v Farsiey
Cotho

Second division
(18) Blackpool v Huli
(19) Bournemouth v Wycombe
(20) Brentford v Burnley
(21) Brighton v Wirecham
(22) Bristol Rovers v Walsati
(23) Chasterfield v Swansaa
(24) Chave v York
(25) Notits County v Peterborough
(26) Rotherham v Ontrod Liid
(27) Shrevsbury v Brastord
(28) Stockport v Bristol City
(29) Swindon v Caritole

P W D L F A

Third division

Venerall Conference (---) Alancham v Welling (---) Famborough v Southport . Slough v Tellord
 Stalybridge v Dover

Bell's Scottish League (42) Celtic v Hibernian (43) Falkrik v Kilmarnock .

(47) Airdne v Ctydebank (48) Dundee Ufd v St Johnstone (49) Duntermine v Dundee (50) Greenock Morton v Herrillon (51) St Muren v Dumbarion (\$21 Ayr v Stenhousemuir (\$31 East File v Clyde (\$41 Montrose v Berwick (\$5) String v Queen Of South (\$6) Stranser v Fortar

(57) Abon v East String
(58) Alloa v Ross County
(—) Chydrath v Quten's Park
(—) Cowdenbasth v Caley This
(—) Livingston v Brechin

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Print
Vieron: Burton v Sudbuy Tin, Chelm
Opcherier Chetarinam v Altr

Gloucester v Crawley, Halestowen v Gravesend and Northit, Hastings v Blaston, Marthy v Cambridge City Rushen and Dammordov Vicroseler; Stationd v Baldond, VS Rugby v Salisbury, Michard divisions: Bedworth: v Evesham Bitation v Dudley Town, Corby v Rothwell, Grantham v Buctongram Toter, Kings Lynn v Rodditch, Leicester United v Bridghorth, Moro Geten v Tarmworth, Nursecton v Handey Town, R C Warwick v Bury Town Broundage v Pagel R Sulfan Colindrid v Solihali Southern Melsiem. Brantises v Reet T Clevedon v Einth and Betvedere, Fareham V Weston-super-Mare, Pictre 93 v Weymouth, Forest Green v Newport I O W, Harvort v Poole, Stongbourne v Towindop, Tombridge Angels v Condertod Yafe v Astrical Cris LEAGUE; Prenter division; Brantises v Condertod Yafe v Astrical Cris LEAGUE; Prenter division; Brantises v Condertod Yafe v Beshop's Stortbod, Sulfon Uniced v Chertody, Wintom and Heistern v Entheld, Worthing v Hayes Yeading v Grays Years! V Cantraston First division. Alabarshot Town v Thames Barking v Wernberg Basingarole v Berchamsted Bognon Regra v Heybridge Switts, Chesham v Leyton Porthans, Marlow's Oxford City, Rushing Marchal V Stanes, Tooling and Michan v Madonhead United: Urbridge v Worthing v Stanes, Tooling and Michan v Madonhead United: Urbridge v Worthing Porthans, Marlow's Oxford City, Rushing Marchal or Vistanes, Tooling and Michan v Madonhead United: Urbridge v Worthingsm Whyselesie v Bilamodon Lond Stephanes V Stanes, Tooling and Michan V Harmodon V Stanes, Tooling and Finchery Egotin and Egyster I Harmodon V Berthand V Stanes, Tooling and Finchery Egotin and Egyster Harmodon V Berthand V Stanes, Tooling and Finchery Egotin and Egyster I Harmodon Complete V Stanes, Tooling and Finchon East Thurnock v Wender V Bangon Cry (2 20) Cearsws v Inne Cambrido and Eon v Harmon v Camaring Finch Counter Stanes Thooling Pool V Bander Final ripsion Consecuty v Porthandong Conner v Holyseld Santhand V Ebby V Bar Newpown v Stanes, Tooling and Police Porthanon Connerts Surchardon Soling Police Police Connerts Surchardon S

Margaretobury: Hillington Boro v Comhtmo-Casulani
COMENNED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier
division: Chipstead v Airt Cobhem v
Godairano and Guidford: Crarleigh v
Raynis Park Vale. Felthern v Walton
Casuato. Herstey Wentneyv Bediont: Horleyv
Perpead. Mershem v DCA Basingstole.
Viung Sports v Sandrurst: Weetleid v
Famham Nethrens v Ashibort
MINERVX SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division. Brache Sparla v
Biggleswede. Buctengham Affetic v
Harponden. Dusstable v Welleyn Guden,
Levchworth v Langlord: Landon Codiney v
Affetse, Tower, Potters Bar v Toddington,
Royston v Stellington: Phemier division:
Barnstagle v Poulton R Braches v
Brasington v Tomington: Calne v Credition:
Horlington v Compenham
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTES LEAGUE:
Premier division: Sudbury Res v Stommerlest.
Sudbury v Software, Walton v Correact
Websich v Tipree Woodbridge v Hauenhill
Cust Cuarfervel Websinding Pinter division:
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Pint division: Totton v Grosort BAT v V Develop

weverunt WESSEX LEAGUE: Pirst di-vision: Totton v Gosport: BAT v Downlon: Bemerion Heath v Christchurch Brocken-hurst v Swanage and Herston, Cowes, Sports v Thischem, Earl Cowes v Ryde Sports Petersfeld v Werborne, Portsmouth v Andover

v Andover
UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Prest
shystom Burgess HR v Anundel; Eastbourne
Town v Starrog, Helicham v Trees Bridges:
Mile Oall v Pagharn; Portfell v Octowood,
Hingmer v Horsham V M C A, Shoreham v
Southwick, Whishamik v Langney Sports;
Vrick v Hassockia Winks Hassockis
Winkstonkeho Mehit Leadule First
divisions Charliam v Furness, Constrain v
Faversham Chay v Besberham, Danford v
Herre Bay Dealy Carrierbury Hybre v Stade
Green, Sheppey v Greenwich, Turchidge
Wells v Rannogate Whatsoble v Consternie
HELLENIC LEAGURE Premier division,
Boester v Carretter, Burtham v Bambury,
Swandon Supermanne v Tuffer, Permier
division Cup North Legit v Cornocster.
HERPEWHATD EPORTS UNITED COUNTIES ownson Cup report Legal & Connitios HEREMARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE. Pramer division. Holbect. v Deutoriagh, herestory of Walkingtonugh. Naviport Pathell v Cogarhor Manhampion Spercor v Bourne St. Neuro. v Stantoni, Spetcing v Pation. S and L Cotto v Long Buckey Statiold v Eynestruy, Woodon v Boston.

specing in process and Lord in Long souther Stability St

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHE Army to Gloucestershire (Ministary Standium, Alderston) SCHOOLS MATCHES (Act-off 10.30 unless stated) Under-18 International tries traced) Under-18 International tries England 30 FA Full Pilm Trophy-Mcddlesbrough v West Burnwach sit ICI Witten 130 FA Promier Langue under-18 Trophy-trior London v Cardendgesher lat Dougks Even 110 English Gills Shield: Barlind v Bodey English Eagles Trophy-scron v Coydon London Beautoy Cup, South London v Blacknesh Valle Cup; Vale of White Horse v Waston, Kerr Cup; Coprigion v Gravestern, Bedway v Marchade Cop; Vale of White Horse v Waston, Kerr Cup; Coprigion v Gravestern, Bedway v Marchade v Brandt Southern Leaguer Aldertica v Oxford, Gosport v South West Aven, Heading v Brestel, Southampton v Swindon, Sherman V Deby, South Nots v Bazz Ridning v Brandt Southern Leaguer Aldertica v Deby South Nots v Bazz Ridning v Brandt Southern Leaguer Aldertica v Deby, South Nots v Bazz Ridning benefit in Prophy Cyth. Coas College, North Youls v St Mary's College, Cleveland, English Goodynan v Fannoparchips (at Watterston, Ocealand v Famnoparchips (at Watterston, Cleveland of English Southwest Region severa limit (at Pagetter, 1130) Northern Begion severa limit (at Chester-le-Seer, 1130)

Naim County v Lossiemouth: Rothes v Port William:
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Rist of distance Charlion Aft v Word Frenc Chaillass v Advanut; Fulkean v Cambridge Utd; Gillergham v Toberham Hospur, Norwich v Portsmouth: Queene Park Rangers v josenic Southerd v Windard ARTH-ERAN LEAGUE: A white Durin Cupt Bracticisticans v Foresters; Berntwoods v Alderhammans; Cardisalans v Chigwerflans; Premiur diseason; Econics. Province Charles v Hospitalans v Chigwerflans; Larung v Chrimmicausa. Provi chiefact, Larung v Chrimmicausa. Province Charles v Williams. Sopplans v Advisor; Webrigbureru v Horroveru.
CLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premiur diseason; Latumer v O Hampiconsen; O Dennes v O Aloyassa; O Ishoeristans v Cardine Manning; O Mendoniers v Claspierm. Benfor first diseason; O Mendoniers v Claspierm. Benfor first diseason; O Mendoniers v Claspierm. CANCELLED: Barking v Eton Menor; Uchfield v Wolverhampton; London Scotlan v Resoling: North Welshem v Sudbury; Aloysans, O Ishoritans v Cardinel Menning, O Mendonistis v Clapterm. Benfor first definer. O Mendonistis v Clapterm. Benfor first definer. O Mendonistis v O Liscoburans, O Salvatoriens v Proving, O Tensonoris Res v Chersoy O Wescheristy o Weschiers v O Vaughanions, SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Phret devision; Nat West Bank v Bouth Benk, Norsamen v Kew Astrocistist: O Estimateurs v Cough End Varipures, Second devision: Biomiscia v Meananta Park, O Laytmeters v O Salvatories, O Pertonisma v O Paremenant. Third division; Secritaria v O Menore and Valencia. O Restriction v Mexicor Ess v Broomfeld, O Westransier Catzers v O Salvatories, Southogale Olympia v Aleyn OS Sciultings v Albancia. Parkfeld v Southopiet County Senfor Inc. City of London v Mill III Villagi. Committee Cassals v Homourable Aphlery Co. O Woodhoussems v O Bestonaria. UCL. Academicals v O Fincheters, Wandoworth Boy v Hashey AFA SEMIOR CEP. Third council Bank v Polytechnic. Hampsched Hashers v O Engand v O Ignationer; O Livonan v Walte Green. O Titiniana v Castration. Ulyscas v Cwi Service. BNFL NATIONAL CUP, First rounds Coosspiles v Waterhead Second rounds Actoward v Ship Int. Asiam v Dahor. Actoward v Ship Int. Asiam v Dahor. Apapana v Kells: Belby Victoria v Langworthy Belley Bos v Stemley Plangers; Blackpool Stemley v Wigan St Cutificers. Blackpool Stemley v Plylands: Brotherins v Blackpool Stemley v Plylands: Brotherins Stemley Collor v Wigan St Cutificers. Blackpool Stemley Village. Developer Collor v Harbor Strong Chegustileld v Lipton and Frietley Croflor v Leeds Scroet Crostelds v Worth Village, Develope Medical v Station Strong Cross; East Leeds v Ossell Triesty. Eastmoor Soliect v Stolds, Eastmoor v Dudley Hill; Ecoles v Knottingley Rock; Farmworth HOB v Reatherstone M W. Featherstone Amateurs v Bffk, Filmby v Rechtl. Folly Lane v Shaw Cross; Fictington v Detregton, Fryson v Modige en, Glasson Rangers v Millord, Hoydock v Westfield Welfare; Hensingham v Rose Bruge, Helworth v Wigan St Judes; Hull Dockars v Westfield Hoter, Kippos v Mayfled, finknot WMC v Walney Cantas; Leigh Hineste v Saddieworst Leigh East v Woolston; Listeborough v Wigen St Patocks; Leedh Hineste v Saddieworst Leigh East v Woolston; Listeborough v Wigen St Patocks; Leigh Hineste v Saddieworst Leigh East v Woolston; Esteborough v Wigen St Patocks; Leigh Rechtle v Brasomoufdes, Queens v Thombil, Seaton v Onel St James, Roses v Rocker & Ringons Roses v Calvarr, Improvict v Wigen St Judes & St Nicholas Arms, v Ocenden, Tameside Borough v Kleen St. SNFL NATIONAL CUP: First round

0 50 fair heavy worn cloud 5 (Halder with some stush, highest pistes CKO)

73 130 good heavy good snow 1 22 (Exceient sking on fresh snow some good powder)

5 110 far maguis worn cloud -1 7/1 (Schithern heshly pisted and slung well)

art cloud

EO 140 far crust worm cloud (Good snow still to be found; mild air softening loe)

tae monuls

(Some pistes good, many worn and icy)

Source: Sh Gub of Great Bream, L - lower stopes; U - upper, art - artificial.

Kick-all 30 unless stated FA Carling Premiership Chelses v Mickfesbrough (4 0)

SNOW REPORTS

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE, Northern de PA WOMEN'S LEAGUE Northwish di-vision: Garwinod S Haisen's FRM Newcastic Kubberninster Harr v Bronte, Lengford v Norts Co Southern division: Berknemateed v Southern plon. Saints: Brighton and Hove v Foren and County: Levison Openi v Ipsanch, Oxford Utd v Three Marketing and Properties of the County:

BUDWEISER LEAGUE Chester to Levocater (5-0): Democater ar Levocater (5-0), London v Hernel (5-0); Newcasille v Derby (6-0): Sheftedd v Manchester (6-15) MATIONAL LENGUE Mart First divisions Bruton v Solent.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGULE Presina division: Cardill v Nescasile (6.19); Durham v File (6.30); Milhon Keynes v Humberside (6.07; Stough v Basengoline (8.00) Pirst division: Bilangham v Chematord (5.15); Blackburn v Tellord (6.0), Manchester v Brachnell v Suidologi (6.30); Patiety v Simmich (6.30), Paterborough v Durwines (5.30); Solitual v Medieray (7.0)

CITMER SPORT ATHLETICS: AAA indoor champenships (National Arena, Birmingham) BOWLS: Masters pairs (County Anthin), LACROSSE: Daily Telegraph sentor Rigit; Semi-Brial; Stockoort v Statistical Walnut Warriors v Royston, West Bowling v Wiches St Bedles, West Hull v Wigton; Westyste Redoubt v Moorande; Whitemoor Warriors v New Earswick A B: York, Acom. v

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville Southgets (Birmingham Univer-sity 12:30)

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournide v Southgete (Birminghem University 12:30).

HA CUP: First nound: Beaston v Guiddhod v Teddington (Longwood, Briefol, 12:45).
Hearnit v Bogbeston (Havent College, 1,0).
Did Loughtonere v Troiters (Chrowell, 1,30).
Richmond v Reading (Toddington School, 1,0).
NASTING AZZUPEND LEAGUE: Presser League, Ashtord v Bournermouth; Chichester v Farehart; High Wycombe v Odord Haalet, League, v Statom League, Woldingharo v Winchester; Wirbladon v Beofesnhart, Wolding J. Gore Court; Wolkingharo v Olid Kingstorinane. Hampshare/Survey. Bernee v Odd Carriolghers; Olid Edwardens v V Chesm, Old Mid, Whigsteine v Andower, Old Whigsteine v Durich; Carriolghers; Olid Edwardens v Chesm, Old Mid, Whigsteine v Andower, Old Whigsteine v Southern page.

Whitglitens v Duhenti, Ouchett v Besnigssky, Solent HC v Southertister, Solent HC v Southertister, Purtoy v Petersfield, Welton and Weybridge v Blandord Kard Suester. Bedeyheash v Belvedere, Slackheash v Crawley, Begins v Besleyheash v Belvedere, Slackheash v Crawley, Begins v Badey Invitan. Brighton v Herne Bay, Mid Sussesse v Old Wilsensporlears, Old Becontentians, Tuhen HB v Old Bondenians, Tuhende Wells v Marden Russets, Worthing v Meddetton, Middly Berkelbalbuctes and Cleon; American v Staines, Brackoeli v Bunbury, City Of Odord v Rochings Park, Eastcole v Rampenha, Herne v OMIT, Hayes v Malton Keynas, HCC v NPL; Headington v EtesSA, Herdon v PHC, Chowdo, MB HB v Martow.
DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE Premier division: Betper v Loughborough Students, Blowdolf v Harbourne, Endoporth v Hampion-in-Arden, John Player v Knales; North Nots v Nothinghren.
North Herby LEAGUE First offwicer. Ban Rhydding v Harrogate; Nesthald v Helfles, Timperley v Formby.
ADNAMIS HOCKEY EAST LEAGUE: Premier & Bedridge and Blord Ipowich v Peterborough Town. Premier B. Sudbrunds, Coloriester v Restriction of the North V Service v Sudbrund. Coloriester v Restriction of the North City v Sudbrund. Cleston v Southendur. Norther Move. Premier B. Sudbrund. Cleston v Southendur. V Bresnbrood; Romined v Stevensye.

Under-16, Under-19 Group A: Brantsee HC, Allco Harpar, Bradford HC. Surbury HC, Portishead HC Group B Old Logistonieno, Bromsgrove, John Dezne's, City of Podsmeuth HC: Semouth HC (Crystal Palsos, BSOem)
WCAREN'S WELSH LEAGUR: Carrie An WCAREN'S WELSH LEAGUR: Carrie An Williams of the Committee of the Committee

BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Birminghem v Chester (7:30); Lincester v Newcasde (7:30); Marchester v Worthing (7:30); Hernal v Tharnas Valley (7:30) NATHONAL LEAGUE: Mart First diverent Bury v Stockort; Coventry v Nothingham: Mid-Susses v Ware, Plymouth v Caroff, Wormen: First divisions Igawich v Notingham: First divisions Igawich v Notingham: First divisions Igawich v Notingham: Igazi (2:3)

ICE HOCKEY

(5.45), Nottingfatin v Mellon Klaynes (6.30) Pirst division; Chelmotord v Blockburn (5.30), Durnies v Bracknell (7.30), Mechaev v Menchester (6.0), Murayfeld v Swindon (7.0) Passiay v Carldictor (7.0); Scillusi v Petertorough (5.30); Tellorci v Billingham (7.9) OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS AM Indoor Championships (National Asers, Birmingham)
BOWLS: Mosters pars (County Animm), Liberty Trophy: Semi-finals: Cormsall v Durtern; Essex v Witterlane,
BOXING: European lightweepti chemponeting, Angel Mone (Fr, holder) v Michael Ayers (Streethern) (Levellos Peret, Peres),
CYCLING: Pive Cities Super League (Final cound, Manchester, 7.D),
LACROSSE: Delly Telegraph Juner Register (Final County), Rochdale v Moorthope Shepherdt Priendly Society Lasgue, Premier division,
Boardriers and Eccies v Chemite Hums;
Heaton Mensey v Timpertey, Poynton v Hulmelane.

TOMOTRON RUGRYLINION

Endsleigh Insurance League

FA VASE: Filth spund: Themesmand v Carrey Island (at Stade Green FC) REPRESENTATIVE WATCH: League of Water v Chunnam Dragons (at Loctorial Stadium Cerdis, 2.0) BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND:

BASAETBALL

ICE HOCKEY

Kick-off 2.30 unless stand CIS county championship Berkshire v Gloucestarahire (at Reading, 2.15) CIS under-21 divisional championship fat Otley, 2 15) Tennents champlonatio Regional League East one

RUGBY LEAGUE

Biggar v Boroughmuir (3.0).....

Cub meacher
High Wycombe v Maintow (2.0)
Waterloo v Orrell
West Hardepool v Newcastle (3.0) Women's teame England v Wales (Lercester, 2.30)

Kick-off 3 0 unioss stated .

Silk Cut Challenge Cup Fourth round Fourth round
Practice v Wakefield (2.0)
Cartisle v Wakefield (2.0)
Castletond v 3t Helens (3.30)
Hull v Hustet (3.15)
Hull k R v Leigh (3.15)
Keightey v Barrow (3.15)
Oldman v Warrington
Rochdale v Thatto Heath
Swinton v Leads Workington v Widnes

HOCKEY MATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock v Guiddord (Morris Ground 2.30), Canterbury v Stourport (Polo Farm, 1.30): East Grinstead v Old Loughtonians (St Hill, 2.0), Havant v Indian Gymldians (Havant College, 2.15); Hoursdow v Trousne (Dukes Meadow Chayanck, 2.0), Hull v Berland Tigers (Orchinal Park, 2.0); Surbitan v St Albans, (Surgden Road, 2.30), Teddington v Reading (Teddington School, 1.30), Second division: Beaston v

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Second round: Weavertern v Bulwell.

Shalfield (highlioids, Nottingham, 2.0), Bromley v Brookfands (Phory LC, Orphington, 1.30), Crostlys: v Slough (Chigwell, 1.0); Dorcauter v Slough (Chigwell, 1.0); Dorcauter v Slough (Chigwell, 1.80); Perbands v City of Portsmouth (Cition College, Bristol, 1.30); Hampsteed and Westmirster v Blueherter (Paddington Recreation Groomd, 12.30), Haritaston Mappies v Richmond (Shotford Heath, 2.0); Isoa v Edigbaston, (Eroter School, 2.30); Olton and West Warwickshire v Oxford University (Grange Road, Birmingham, 2.0). SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INDOOR CUP: Semi-finals and final (Bells SC, Perth). AEWHA INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: A Under-19 and under-18 (Crystal Palace, 8 50am). CLUB MATCHES: Bedans v Whitey Bay Colleys Bay v Stockpon, Newport



Hemsedal Lillehammer & Gudbrandsdalen

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In 1630 41

Conditions Runs to (5pm) Last *C snow Slope Off To A Cosy Chalet. 3 72 fair heavy art clour, inigh pastes in good shape but heavy late on) 4 43 loy varied cloud. Endiges
UK LVNIG WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fillshround replay: Everton v Huddensbeld.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-18 International Xist. England Xi v Loughborough
College (at Lifeshalt, 10 15) Kazbuhel INCLUDING AFTERNOON TEA PLUS WINE WITH DINNER 4 43 icy varied closed cloud -5 27/1 (Funs hard-packed with rey-worm paths; snow torecast) Airport St Anton hard varied C) doud -3 8/1 20 120 naro vaneo icy couo : (Puses softer because of milder weather; snow torecast) Chatel Du Forum (wpb) 5T HB 24 Feb Galwick £636 £439 £197 20 40 fair crust art fi (Generally good with soft snow on firm base) Val Thorens, France Chalet Les Montagnettes (wvj) 4T HB 24 Feb Bristol £475 £399 £76 37 HB 02 Mar Birmingham 6476 £419 £57 2T HB 24 Reb Luton £425 £339 £96 Alpe d'Huez 2 65 229 good varied fair fair (improved sking on new snow some icy/bare patches) Chalet Perce Neige 4T HB 24 Feb Gutwick £399 £379 £20 Chalet Les Montagnettes 4T HB D2 May Gatwick £499 £459 £60 Les Arcs 0 la= vaned soft fa ow at atitude; lower runs much softer) 30 160 Chalet du Jardin Alpin 4T HB 24 Feb Gatwick £538 £449 £89 2) 145 fair heavy worm cloud 4 23/1 iPac light because of cloudy sides; 22 of 31 lifts open) 4T HB 24 Feb Linion £491 £419 £72

Mege-e

La Plagne

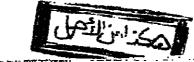
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SKATZERLAND

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Memo to a manager careering off learning curve

Dear Bryan,

This is England calling ... your country needs you. With an act of timing not untypical of the Football Association, you were, on Monday, deemed guilty in your absence of bringing the game into disrepute by speaking unforgivable words to a referee. Fine: £750.

By Tuesday, the gentlemen of the FA's international sub-committee had apparently dispatched Jimmy Armfield to find you and convince you to leave Middlesbrough in mid-contract and accept the post of

England coach.

The message is that you are uniquely placed as the only individual who both assists Terry Venables, the incumbent coach, and is eligible to be his successor

after the European championship. Rightly, I feel, your initial response is that you are too young, that you are on a learning curve as a manager of men, that this offer comes, at least, two years too soon.

After barely 18 months in management, you need, as even a man who has captained his country 65 times must need, to undergo the day-to-day process of acquiring the scumen to guide the careers of younger recruits. At club level you are entitled to make mistakes, to misjudge situations and men, and then to be able to correct errors within a matter of days, so fast is

the playing cycle.

England, of course, deprives its coach of this. This month, Venables attempted to gather his players for a much-needed training session but the weather and the unavailability of his chosen internationals scuppered the plan. The England



Rob HUGHES Weekend View

coach is not master of his players' time and the isolation, the months of living on the periphery of the game, would inhibit your need to

Yet the men at Lancaster Gate have determined that you, and you alone, can bridge the gap. The word they use is continuity. They see you continuing the process of changing England's name to be a shared every pressure. changing England's ways, begun every decision, every reward you by Venables, and they see you teaming up with Don Howe, the see

nior citizen of the tremendous coaching team. goodwill You and Don can work together, of millions' no doubt. It was

he, as the manager of West Bromwich Albion, who first took a chance on a skinny 15-year-old from Durham.

Much later you, the England captain, and Howe, the England who will be your boss? No one has coach, persuaded Robson to change factics and deploy a sweep-er at the 1990 World Cup, a tournament that took England further on foreign soil than any in

But when we speak of continuity, perhaps there is another interpre-tation of that on Teesside. You have there two established, continuous relationships. One is with a chairman, Steve Gibson, who loves the

game so much that he actually plays for the fun of it. He is younger than your 39 years, and the FA

council has members who seem older than Methyseigh. The second most important man to you is Viv Anderson, a friend

> take Anderson to the FA with you? Or do you leave him to assist contiruity at the Boro? in reality, the FA team would be

should ask the sub-committee is who will be your boss? No one has given urgency to deciding the succession to Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman who is apparently about to retire. Another question to put to the kingmakers is who will be the director of coaching? Your opposition to the long-ball methods espoused by Charles Hughes, the man in situ, has been well documented. You cannot, thank goodness, have any truck with an outmoded style of play that has

dragged England down to its lamentable position.

Supposing a new chairman and a compatible director of coaching are found, then presumably, from your strong position, you would be entitled to ask for a salary double the £150,000 Venables receives. commensurate with the three-year contract you signed with Middlesbrough 18 months ago.

Next, of course, you will seek to protect your family location. Your wife, two daughters and son, are established in Cheshire, something Middlesbrough took into account when they offered you rides from Cheshire to Teesside aboard the ICI company jet. Many people in football would subscribe to the view that an England coach resident in the North would be no bad thing. Maybe, in time, we will play international matches there.

Go to Lancaster Gate, if you must. Go with the tremendous goodwill of millions, mine included. It is the ultimate calling in the English game, although one bedevilled by all manner of difficulties. However, if you allow them to accelerate your career beyond your instincts and expectations, then at least go forewarned and fore-armed Yours,

Rob Hughes

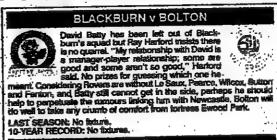
PS: If you have the strength to turn the offer down, please pass these thoughts to Kevin, Gerry or Glenn. On second thoughts, as Chelsea entertain Middlesbrough tomorrow, you and Hoddle can exchange views on the England "situation". Oh to be a fly on that



Will Robson choose to cast his gaze further afield than his surroundings at Middlesbrough?

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND





BLACKBURN (from): T Flowers, C Coleman, J Kenna, T Sherwood, G Hendry, S Ripley, K Gallactrer, A Sheerer, M Newell, H Berg, L Bohinen, W McKinley, N Gudmundsson, R Mirms, M Hohmes, P Werturst.

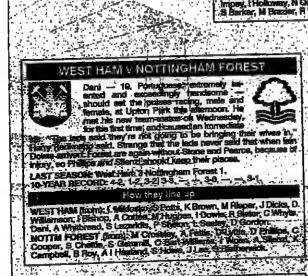
BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S Green, J Prailips, S Curoke, C Feirciough, G Bergsson, A Stubbs, D Lee, R Sheekes, M Pastelainen, J McGinley, A Thompson, S Sellers, N Blake, F de Freites, S McAnasple.

LIVERPOOL V TOTTENHAM LAST SEASON: Liverpool 1 Tottenham 1. 19-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 0-1, 1-0, 1-1, 1-0, 2-0, 2-1, 6-2, 1-2, 1-1. LIVERPOOL (probable): D James, J MoAtser, R Jones, J Scales, M Wright, P Babb, J Barnes, S McAlenamen, M Thomes, R Fowler, S Collymors, Subs (from): A Werner, M Kennedy, I Rush, S Harkness, TOTTEN-I-AM (room): I Walter, D Austin, J Edihburgh, C Caldenwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, S Campbell, D Castery, R Fox, A Sinton, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, S Nethencott, J Dozzel, R Rosenthal, C Day.



ST SEASON: Marcheoler City 2 OPR 8. YEAR RECORD: 20, 80, --- 10, 21, 32, 1-1, 30, 23. MAN CITY (from): E Immel, N Summerbee, K.Curle, K Symons, M Frontzeck, S Lomes, G Kinkladze, G Filtzeoft, N Clough, N Quinn, U Rissier, M Philippe, I Brightwell, M Brown, M Margetson. CPR (from): J Sommer, D Maddb, A McDoneld, S Yeles, T Chellin, A Impey, I Hollowey, N Questie, T Sindair, B Allen, M Hatoley, K Sellen, S Barker, M Brazzer, R Wilkins, C Plommer, M Mahorey-Johnson. LAST SEASON: Newcastie 2 Sheffield Wed 1. 10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 2-3, 2-2, 1-3, --, 1-0, --, --, 4-2, 2-1. NEWCASTIE: (processes: P Strawers, P Rison, L Ferdinand. P Albert, R Lée, L Clark, S Wetson, P Beardstey, P Kison, L Ferdinand. Substitutes (from): D Huckerby, P Brayeon, R Effott, 3 Halop. SHEPF WED (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, D Sustanovic, P Athenton, S Nicol, I Watter, J Watts, G Hyde, M Degryse, G Whittingham, C Wadden, M Bright, R Humphreys, M Pietta, D Hirst, D Kovassevic, J Sharidan.

Everton are not normally associated with bemeterming runs but a record of only two defeats in 13 league matches, and four wins from their past five, is as good as most. Now that Ferguson has had his suspension litted — what a triumph for Scottleh justice — Joe Royle and his boys can take the Premiership by storm. Datanshely, though, they might have a problems at The Del, with Unsworth, Ebbred and Hottiger unswellable. Southampton osary on just about getting by, with this sesson no different. Yewn, anoaze, etc. LAST SEASON: Southernation 2 Everion 0. 10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 0-2, 0-4, 1-1, 2-2, 3-4, 1-2, 0-0, 0-2, 2-0. How they line up SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Bessent, J Dodd, F Benall, R Hall, K Monkou, J Magitton, M Le Tiesler, B Venlacn, N Shipperley, G Watson, Monkou, J. Magazon, M. Lei Leeser, D. Verladon, II. Srepheriely, G. Veldon, M. Weitsrs, N. Maddison, M. Caldey, B. Grobbelser. EVERTON (from): N. Southell, D. Watson, A. Hinoholtile, M. Jackson, B. Home, A. Limpar, A. Kanchelskis, C. Short, J. Parkinson, D. Ferguson, D. Amokachi, G. Allen, P. Rideout, G. Stuart, J. Kaerton.



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MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Watsh, N Cox, C Liddia, N Pearson.
Wickers, C Morris, D Whyte, A Whyte, M Barron, C Blackmore.
O'Halloran, N Barmby, J Moreno, C Hignett, P Wilkinson, J A Fjortell

5 I	
Ì	WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION
-	Today
	10.45pm BBC T Match of the Day (highlights)
V	Tomorrow
	12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday
١.	3.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Bunday: Chelses v Middlesbrough (Ne)
	Cheises & evices autority (i.e.)

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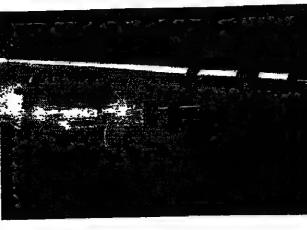
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Talented Flat recruit can expose flaws in Agfa Hurdle opposition

Right Win to strengthen title claim

SO BEREFT of depth is the byzantine Champion Hurdle picture that the following have been brought together under the guise of a Festival trial: a German unknown, an equine veteran, a perennial big-race bridesmaid and, last but not least, in this designated test of speed, a French steeplechaser frantically trying to qualify for the Grand National. They are opposed — subject to Sandown passing a 7.30am inspection — by a group one winner from the Flat.

The Agfa Hurdle should really be no contest, although seasoned watchers of the winter game will be too wise to rush out and back Right Win with serious money. The effect

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HIGH BARON (1.50 Sandown Park) Next best: Treasure Again (4.10 Sandown Park)

that eight flights of hurdles can have on a proven galloper never ceases to amaze

Indeed, had Right Win displayed a shade more consistency on the Flat, he would now be looking over the frosty landscape from the comforts of a stallion box. He may yet earn that status, but the sixyear-old entire must first scramble over a series of wooden obstacles which, if he measures them inaccurately, might have painful

epercussions.
That seems unlikely if his jumping debut is any guide. Perhaps, mindful of the hidden pitfalls, Right Win cleared his hurdles with room to spare, in the process demolishing a field of talented novices. Having initially loitered along at the back of the field, his superior speed was quickly evident. The prize was his in a



Trainglot, with Jamie Osborne aboard, attempts to repeat his 1993 victory in the Tote Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle at Sandown today

Richard Dunwoody, who takes over on Atours, will be mindful of this. Atours is usually held off the pace, often exaggeratedly so, but it would be foolish to allow Right Win such rope. So impressive in dismissing inferior opponents. Atours has never quite convinced against his peers. He may be bequeathed the runner-up berth for the fourth consecutive time.

Land Afar was well held by Mole Board until the 14-year-

old, all wrong at the final flight, fired Tom Grantham out of the saddle 12 months ago. It would be hugely embarrassing for his opponents were Mole Board to prevail on ground much faster than he

The going is also a problem for his stablemate, Killone Abbot, who ploughed through a quagmire at Newbury for an emphatic victory in Novem-ber. He is talented, but his future surely lies over fences.

Of the remainder, Moorish is out of sorts. Telasco is out of his depth and As Des Carres will be out of his mind. This staying French chaser faces extreme disorientation after racing over the minimum trip. But his connections today strive for a distinction totally alien to British owners. They are hoping As Des Carres

wrath: only then will the eight-

year-old be assured a berth in the Grand National the

the handicapper's

weights for which are an-

nounced on Tuesday. The British Horseracing Board acted vesterday to make good a host of valuable opportunities recently lost to the weather. The Marstons Pedigree Novices' Hurdle, run at Uttoxeter a week today, is to have its added value boosted to £18,000 to compensate for the abandonment of the Prestige Novices' Hurdle at Chepstow. And further races at Wincanton and Newbury

will have their values increased if the card at Sandown today succumbs to the ele-

in that event, spare a thought for the lot of the British racehorse owner. He is, by definition, not short of a few bob. But no one, however has found the antedote to being stuck in a taxi in traffic. Like racehorse ownership in the present climate, it is a frustrating waste

Monsieur Le Cure can benefit from Jodami's absence

By OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

JODAMI'S attempt for a fourth successive Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup victory was ruined when the Peter Beaumont-trained chaser was found to be coughing yester-day, but Monsieur Le Cure can continue the British stranglehold on tomorrow's big chase at Leopardstown.

Carvills Hill, in 1989, is the only Irish-trained horse to have won the Hennessy since it was first run in 1987 and, despite a number of other options, trainer John Edwards has selected the Hennesy as for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Edwards said yesterday: The ground and the prizemoney are attractive and Sunday's race is a nice stepping stone with Cheltenham five weeks away. He won't run again before Cheltenham, but

he seems very well.

The ground at Leopardstown is described as yielding and no inspection is planned. A spokesman said yesterday that the course is expected to avoid the worst of any over-

night frost.

Kim Bailey expressed himself unworried about the ground drying up for Master Oats and added that last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner is in good form for

from a jumping mistake to finish third to One Man in the King George and without that mistake could have challenged Monsieur Le Cure for second place. However, his best form has been on much softer ground.

Richard Dunwoody had the choice of the two main Irish hopes, Flashing Steel and Imperial Call, and has plumped for the former. Now an 11-year-old, Flashing Steel has won his only race this season and will appreciate the going, but he has been found out previously in the highest company and is unlikely to have improved.

In contrast, Imperial Call is only seven and his defeat of the Champion Chase contender Strong Platinum over an inadequate trip last time proved he is improving

Conor O'Dwyer rides him for the first time tomorrow and he said: "I rode Strong Platinum against him and I was very impressed. He is crying out for a trip and the best is yet to be seen of him. But it can't be too soft for him and the ground may dry up

That will not be a worry to Monsieur Le Cure, who can take the Hennessy en route to another rematch with One

GOING: YIELDING

3.45 HENNESSY COBNAC GOLD CUP (248,750: 3m) (9 numbers)

1995: JODANN 12-G M Owyer (13-5 lev) P Bymamers (GB) B rat

Sandown hopes rise

Diamond Chase meeting at Sandown Park today have improved, thanks to a rise in temperature. The clerk of the course. Andrew Cooper, said vesterday: "We didn't have too bad a frost overnight and the temperature has risen to around two degrees Celsius at

"It all depends on how things are tonight. There isn't a really bad frost forecast but we will have a precautionary inspection at 7_30am."

Hopes are high that today's meeting at Wetherby will go ahead but it was a different story at Chepstow which became the latest victim of the frost as the weather refused to release its grip on racing. The clerk of the course,

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20/1 Hops And Pops

22/1 Lucky Blue

25/1 Dark Honey

22/1 Outset

40/1 Taos

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS

(Minimum total investment per call 519, Over 18's only. Free bet is a £19 Straight Forecast on the Sandon

4.10pm today or a £16 Correct Winning Margin bet on today's 5 Nations Rugby. (Please place your bet and make your free forecast selection within the same call.)

abandon yesterday after an early afternoon inspection. Yesterday's card at Folke-

stone became another casualty when a mid-morning deterioration in conditions caused an abandonment and Monday's meeting at Fontwell Park is the latest fixture to be put in jeopardy by the cold snap.

yesterday: "There is frost in the ground and we will hold an inspection at 9.00am on

Sunday. Newton Abbot is "very hopeful" of racing on Mon-day, according to the clerk of the course, Pat Masterson, but the meeting at Warwick on Tuesday is dependent on a thaw as some parts of the track are still frozen.

RACING MENT WEEK

TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 150), Carlste (1.40), Warwick (1.30) WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AV 2.10), Ascot (BBC, 1.30) Luclow (1.45). THURSDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 150). Huntington (2.00). Wincenton (140). FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.10), Bangor (1.50), Newbury (1.30) SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW. 2.05), Ayr. (1.20), Catterick. (1.45), Newbury (BBC, 1.10), Utaweser (C4, 1.35). Flat meetings at hold

SANDOWN PARK 1.20 PADDY'S RETURN (nap) 3.35 Young Hustle 4.10 Trainglot 4.40 Whattabob

The Times Private Hendicapper's top rating: 4.10 PHARANEAR. GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES

1.20 RIPLEY FOUR-YEAR-OLD HOVICES HURIDLE

| 10yd) (16 runners) | 10y51 (Ness J Brandwart) | 17 motion-Danies | 11-8 | C. Lineadym | C. Lineady

BETTING: 5-2 Paddy's Rinam, 5-1 Michigant. 6-1 Octan Havis, 3-1 Detectors Days. Clares Religiousque, 12-1 Oliera. 1985: AMANCAD 4-11-0 M Panel (9-2) 6 Harricol (1) am FORM FOCUS

CCEAN HAWN on promous start 71 2nd of 17 to Tibelan in novice hardle over course and distance togood to soft) with RESIGNATES QUE (1th better off) 13 and PRILITY'S RETURN 314 2nd of 20 to Soverenges Parade in moves hardle at haydood, (2nd, good) REVELLON has 17 hos 14 is 14-parmer hardle at Enghien (2m 110pd, soft) on the 12 to 14 is 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in novoe hardle at Enghien (2m 110pd, soft) on the 12 to 14 is 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in novoe hardle at Enghien (2m 110pd, soft) on the 12 to 14 is 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in novoe hardle at Enghien (2m 110pd, soft) on the 12 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15 to 15 to 15 to 15 to 15 to Usarly Boy in 15 to 15

1.50 GUILDFORD FLAMES HANDICAP CHASE (26,873: 2m) (10 numers) Jong handicap. Mr Felix 9-3, Young Alfre 7-9.

BETTING: 3-1 Materi's Lamp 7-2 Ture West Wast, 4-1 Scand Revents, 5-1 Közest 7-1 Vacastin King 6-1 High Barun, 18-1 Ring Chelo 12-1 others. 1995: UNCLE EFORE 18-11-10 J Ostoma (5-2) / Potgerato S rati

FORM FOCUS MARTIN'S LAMP 144 2nd of 13 to Big Mart in 14 MSH BARRIN 2nd of 5 to Eachtorpe in transf-victor Chandler Handscap Chaze at Accol (2m, good to suit) SQUAPO REVEILE bout Automa Car-tin 144 to B-nomet transform chase at Chellenbarn (2m 1100), with MERRET had Give Chandler 54 of the tops Feederma 41 on 8-nomer handlessy than 1000 thanks process at Accol (2m, good) 5 Selection: MARTINE LEMP

2.25 SCILLY ISLES HOVICES CHASE (Grade I: \$21,556; 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners) 9 0-26*4 CAMPECIE BAY \$2.4 Kinner) 6 Bishog 7-11-6
2 1POS-RS GNAS A CALL 14 (S) (T Bendele) 1 GB-016-11-6
3 10-1PF1 JISBER THE KIRSER 21 (D.S) J HILDTON MT. J PETRO 7-11-6
4 2001PO BENARRO 21 (F.G) filed for Resonal D Eleventh 3-11-6
5 582(2); NO FANK NO GAN 17 (G.S) (Marellous Patrons) 4 (GRat 3-11-6
6 300-619 S SHOR R. BERRITTI 22 (G.S) (GRath MS S Ress 7-16-6
7 44/P-1US TOTHENDOOS 22 (G.S) (M Scath / Marcar-Danes 9-11-6

SETTING: 5-4 Japles The Klaber, 3-1 No Pain No Galo, 6-1 Memors, 8-1 Textendeds: 10-1 Serie 5 Select. 12-1 1995: BANJO 5-10-70 A Magaze (*1-4) M Fice 8 ran FORM FOCUS

CHARTCHE HAY THI Jet of the Window Western is imprice harder at Charlestonian (Zeo 2), speck to mod, judicier This mithiest hour at Sout at it is foremore newice chaics at Warmerk (Zm. 4) 1104d, good to soft). MCHAURO best either this term host linguing Agent Si in 3-moner conce charse at Excellent (Zm. 2) 1104d, good of the chart (Zeo 2) 1104d, good of the chart (Zeo 2) 1104d, good of Section (Zeo 2) 1 3.00 AGFA HURDLE

(£10,260: 2m 110yd) (8 numers) SETTING: 7-4 Mounts, 2-1 Right Win. 4-1 Killians Abbet, 8-1 Land Star, Mole Bount, 25-1 Chapters, 25-1 chiero.

1995, LAND MAR 8-11-4 G McCoun (2-1) J Webbs 7 ya

ATOURS 11:1 2am of 8 to Myshy to grade 8
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Health Will best Shong Promise 51 of 9-noner
grade 1 Tohordh Hardle ose course and distance
(good to 50) KELONE ABBOT beal Moste Bad

Selection: ATOURS

3.35 AGFA DIAMOND CHASE (Limited handicap: Grade R: £18,840.3m 110yd) (4 runners)

SETTING: 5-4 Purey Session. 7-4 Young Huster, 11-2 Avanti-Express, 6-1 Yosinbiru Gale. 1985: DEEP BRANDLE 8-11-90 C Moude (6-1) P Medialis 11 cm

FORM FOCUS VOUNCE HUNTLER 251 Sht of 11 is Corr Man way goads 1 Tingleprint (long George VI Chick over course and distance (goad to suff). Earlier best Sir Schrift (also of the course) Minimum Chr. 3t. good to lumit PERCY SMOLLETT until United States (long Huntler) of the conson beat Girmburg 251 of 6-boxer lampicap chance at Longuisto Minimum Chr. 3t. good to lumit PERCY SMOLLETT until United States (long Huntler) of the course of Minimum Chr. 3t. good to lumit PERCY SMOLLETT until United States (long Huntler) of the course of Minimum Chr. 3t. good to lumit PERCY SMOLLETT.

4.10 TOTE GOOKHAKERS SANDOWN HANDICAP HUNDLE C4

Long handicapt Cober 9-72. BETTOMS. 7-2 Praceuser. A-1 Transfet. 8-1 Trickle Lot, Transver Agam, Spelly Siglie 18-1 Reserv Los. 12-1 1990: NARACZE BANK 7-10-0 Peter Hotés (3-1 lies) C Wandon 12 con

FORM FOCUS

4.40 FEBRUARY MAIDER HUROLE (\$3,173: 2m 6) (22. runners) FEBRUARY MARDER MURDLE (E3,173: 2m 61) (22 namers)

BATILE LORID CSTO (M Matern) is Besider 8-11-7. S Michell 1
30244F- BOYNEPER 296 (Louncher Members) is Wilderen 7-11-7. P Crowder (2) 75
52 File STALIER TO CATE U Care 8-11-7. G DETHING (2) 75
52 FINE STALIER TO CATE U Care 8-11-7. G DETHING (2) 75
53 FINESTALIER SEE 10 (Ms o P Materney) P Minister 8-11-7. G McCourt
64 GLITTER SSEE 14 (Ms o P Fédington) J Gillord 6-11-7. G McCourt
65 GLITTER SSEE 14 (Ms o P Fédington) J Gillord 6-11-7. G McCourt
69 FEATON 17 (G Nameral) H Foundary 9-11-7. B Featon (3) 77
102-2 LORD MCMARROUGH 12 (S) (J Newton) J Newton 8-11-7. R Dustwoods,
623324 MM LERNS 77 (Fiber E-Buckley) D GESSER 6-11-7. R Dustwoods,
638 FMAR FROM FLOWY 23 (Ms o F Hapcott G G Bating 5-11-7. R Dustwoods,
639 FMAR FROM FLOWY 23 (Ms o F Hapcott G G Bating 5-11-7. R P Modery 75
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640 POLITICAL PANTO 60 (S Loopy M Poet 5-11-7. B Carlord 50
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640-7 PURCE MASHA 296 (S Pederato) V Carateglas-Brane 6-11-7. B Parting 50
640-7 PURCE MASHA 296 (DETTINGS 3-1 Yates, 7-2 Windisholo, 6-1 Viell Associated 8-1 The Associated Beal, 16-7 Mr. Jerok, 12-1 Gibbs Isla 14-1 Bounder, Lard Middishologh, 16-1 advars

1995. NATINE ALLIANCE 6-11-7 J Lauta -26-11 M Pige 15 cm FORM FOCUS

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COURSE SPECIALISTS

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Trainglot to stage repeat success

SANDOWN PARK CHANNEL4

25: This handsome prize has failed to attract a top quality field, but connections of Jibber The Kibber will when he suffered a soft fall on his chasing debut, Jibber The Kibber returned to Warwick and guickened away from another promising sort in Air Shot. These are tougher obstacles, but the sevenyear-old, a bold jumper, should take them in his stride. He has always appealed as the type to excel

A line through Air Shot suggests No Pain No Gain will trouble the selection. However; Josh Gifford's recruit was far from comfortable when landing the odds at Windsor last time. He cannot match the scope of Jenny Pitman's exciting prospect. Senor El Betrutti, disappointing on his last start, has place claims on his Ascot win.

3.00: See above. 3.35: It is never easy to scent when Yorkshire Gale is on song. The ten-year-old thrives in small fields and could spring a surprise, even from 121b out of the handicap. Percy Smollett will be all the rage after his fluent Ascot victory. He appears well treated but the eightyear-old, at his best in testing conditions, is worth opposing on the forecast good

Young Hustler has his favoured surface but is arguably better racing left-handed. That leaves Amtrak Express, who is perfectly weighted with 10st 7lb. Nicky Henderson's horse should find three miles within his compass and can spring a mild surprise.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

4.10: Pharanear comes here with his confidence soaring after three recent victories. The handicapper has been fair on his 20-length romp at Warwick, raising the novice by 9lb. David Nicholson's horse should again account for Bell Staffboy, Fuzzy Logic and Hops And Pops on these terms. Whether he can cope with Trainglot is another muston.

Jimmy Fitzgerald's horse defied a three-year absence to prevail from his stable companion. Narive Field, at Newcastle and should improve for the run. He was strongly fancied for the 1993 Sun Alliance Hurdle, having won this race en route, and makes considerable appeal in receipt of 7lb from Pharanear. On his preferred surface, Trainglot could well be a blot on the handicap.

Sparky Gayle, an improving sort, should run well but would prefer easier ground. A similar comment applies to Treasure Again, a game winner for Merrita Jones at Ascot, where the gambled-on Feels Like Gold was most disappointing. Roberty Lea, who landed a grade two novice hurdle last season over this course and distance, is another with good credentials in a wide-open contest.

JULIAN MUSCAT

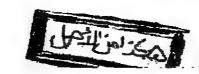
Southwell

Going: standard
2.00 (87) 1, SEJGING DESTRIY (D.R.
McCabe, 100-30 Lavi. 2, Bit Of Bother (G.Carter, 7-2), 3, Kind Of Light (F. Lynch, 5-1) ALSO RAN 9-2 Childrang Bang (8th)
5 Forentian (4th), 6 Miss Carotiane, 16
Chillem (8th) 7 ren. 4L, hd, 294, 294, 164 M.Chapman at Manket Rasen. Tota: £4.40, £2.10, £3.50 DF £18.60. CSF: £14.91.
2.30 (71) 1, MELOS (T.Ashey, 2-5 fay), 2.
Northern Gray (Josenia: Webster, 10-1); 3, Komhucky (G.Faufkner, 14-1) ALSO RAN
11-2 Araboybal (4th), 10 Legateze (5th), 50
Desert Man (5th), 6 ren. 314, 31, 174, 61 4, 1 Naughton at Epsorn. Tota, £1.80, £1.10, £5.20. DF: £5.00, CSF: £5.20.
3.00 (1m.4) 1, MER MORMARTY (N. Cantala), CS 20. OF: 25.00. CSF 25.20.
3.00 (1m 4) 1. MR MORIARTY (N Cantale, 9-2); 2. Modest Hope (C Teague, 12-1); 3. Backusion (J Cutrn, 25-1) ALSO RAN: 7-4 (av Ashquer (4th), 7-2 Non Vintage, 7 Adaloaldo, 12 New Inn. 14 Just Flamenco, Turgenev. 16 Bold Pursust (6th), 25 Nobile Canonies (5th), 11 can. 24-1 21, 41, 31-4, 71. S Bowmig at Marshold Totar (4-50, 21, 40, 22-40, 23-50 DF £13.40 Trior (92-90, CSF-256.90 Tricas) 21, 137 12, 3.30 (1m 3f) 1, BALIOS (J Weaver, 7-2); 2. Oversman (J Fortune, 3-1); 3. Reploy (L Dettorl, 8-11 fax) ALSO RAN: 33 Sidpmen

(8b), 100 Dessafina (4th), Kai's Lady (5th) Ill ran. NR: Multipliande Lad Hd, 2, 25i, 30, 5i, M Johnston at Middleham. Tota 23.50; 5; 90, 51.20 DF: £4.50. CSF £13.14.

\$13.14.
4.00 (1m 3f) 1. NO SUBMISSION (A
4.00 (1m 3f) 1. NO SUBMISSION (A
Culhare, 8-1); 2. Kismetim (D Griffets,
14-1); 3. Night Time (L Newton, 11-1)
ALSO RAN, 3-1 fav Harry, 4 Snarp Gazelle
14th), 11-2 Duveen, Hawwarm, 10
Komismatie (6th), 11 Trumble (5th), 12
Anchorens, Miss Cashtal, Rainbow Walk,
12 ran 21, rix, 1st, 3t, 4t, D Chapman at
York, Tote: £13.70, £3.00, £8.60, £3.60,
DF. £413.50. Trio £261.90, CSF, £117.81,
4.30 (1m) 1. TATIKA 15 Millioen, 10-11, 2 DF. E413.50. Trice 1251.50. CSF 1117.81.
4.30 (1m) 1. TATIKA (G Milligen, 10-1), 2.
Kingchip Boy (T Nes, 8-4 lay); 3. Sea
Spouse (N Adems, 33-1). ALSO RAN.
11-4 Sea God (471), 9-2 Logal Issue, 11-2
Mester Beveled (Bin), 16 Roer On Tour, 20
Aquado, Jahmaid, Twin Creeks (5th), 50
Chearlul Groom, 11 ran. 2kl, 131. kl, 5l,
hd, G Wangg at Newmarket, Toice 10.60;
64.10, 62.00, 610, 70. DF- 648.70. Tric.
6437.00, CSF- 622.61. Tricast: 5686.23.
Jackpot: 529.760.00 (0.70 wirning tick
ets; pool of £12,597.35 carried toneard
to Lingfield Park today). cepat: £397.80. Quedpot: £140.30.

Man poised for



Olympic sprint champion permitted to join Gunnell in Birmingham

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Wembley passes by as Lowes heads for **Bradford**

By Christopher Irvine

JAMES LOWES forfeited the possibility of a third trip to Wembley with Leeds by moving to Bradford yesterday. As the hooker's transfer is beyoud the deadline for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, he must sit out the home match against Batley, one of 11 rearranged fourth-round ties

Mick Shaw once again takes up the acting half duties for Leeds at Swinton. Lowes, a himself increasingly cast in a defensive role in the second row. His work-rate was sufficient for Leeds to tempt him with a fresh contract but Bradford's plans left Lowes in no doubt about where his

future lay. Brian Smith, the Bradford coach, said Lowes would be his automatic choice as No 9. ahead of two other ntility players, Bernard Dwyer and Jason Donohue. The latter will play at hooker for the

Batley game. Smith is convinced Lowes can succeed Lee Jackson, now in Australia, as the Great Britain hooker. "When the Bradford chairman visited me in Australia, he left me a tape of Bradford v Leeds," Smith said. "There was one player who impressed me most. Unfortunately, he was playing for the opposition. I've kept an eye on James at ceds ever since."

Although Leeds were anx ious to retain Lowes, Smith apparently sees more in him and Paul Cook, the teenage England wing exchanged by Leeds in December, than the coaching staff at Headingley. In contrast to a procession of more than 30 players in and out at Odsal since the arrival of Smith six months ago, playing resources at Leeds are

wearing thin.

The deal for Lowes appears to conclude the spending spree at Bradford. With Glen Tomilinson, the scrum half recruit from Battey, also cuptied, Smith will not get the change to part his first-chaics. chance to put his first-choice team into play before the Super League but with a straightforward passage to the last eight, the Challenge Cup afters an exchange the hills.

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fryn 190 Tall Carlot

There is no doubting how much the competition means to Alex Murphy, in his and charge of Warrington. They go to Oldham, semi-finalists last season, on the back of seven successive defeats.

The other all-Super League tie gives Shaun McRae his belated first sight of St Helens in action, at Castleford, Last week's postponement because of snow at least boosted the Australian coach's prepara-tion time, but lan Pickavance, Adam Fogerty and Joey Hayes picked up injuries. At stake is a tie at Rochdale or Thatto Heath, the St Heleus

Christie makes late dash for AAA championships

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second time in seven months, British athletics officials have bent national championship rules to accommodate Linford Christie, the Olympic 100 metres champion. Christie's entry for the AAA of England indoor championships in Birmingham this weekend was received and accepted yesterday, although entries closed two weeks ago.

However, while it was wrong to allow Christie to run

in the AAAs 100 metres final last summer, after his elimina-tion in the heats, only a bureaucrat would disagree with the decision to let Christie into the 60 metres today. There will be those, no doubt. who will argue that entry conditions should apply as much to elite athletes as to club competitors, but not the paying public. Christie will now make his first home appearence in Olympic year at the National Indoor Arena a

week earlier than expected. Last July, down the road at the Alexander Stadium, Christie's request to run in the AAAs. 100 metres final was agreed to, even though he had not appeared in the semi-finals. However, unlike last summer, Christie is not an isolated case this time. On Monday, two other sprinters, Jason John and Solomon Wariso, were accepted as late entries. "We have made an exception for athletes who were out of the country when the entries closed." Roy Tilling, the championship secretary, said.

Christie returned this week from Australia, where he ran a hand-timed 100 metres in 10.0sec and a wind-assisted Christie said that his late enth in the world championdecision had come because it ships and the 1993 World Cup had "fallen in with his

training".
The irony is that, after the pay dispute with Christie last summer, Britain's two Olympic champions are appearing for nothing in an unsponsored meeting. Sally Gunnell will be making her comeback from the injury which prevented her from defending her 400 metres hurdles world nite last suramer. She runs in the 400

Some of Gunnell's Great Britain colleagues for the Al-lanta Olympics may be decid-ed today, when the marathon selectors meet. The difficulty on the men's side is that they are spoilt for choice. "We have not been in such a strong position during all the time I have been involved, which is since the 1988 Olympic." Games," Alan Warner, the chairman of selectors, said.

Five men are contesting three positions, and one option is to pick only Peter White-head now and wait until after the spring marathons before adding the other two names. Only Whitehead has indisput-ably achieved one of the four criteria which the British Athletic Federation (BAF) said would guarantee selection six months before the Games. Whitehead was fourth at the

world championships in Gothenburg, when conditions were warm and humid, which is what is expected in Atlanta. though much worse. According to BAF policy, a top-five position books an Olympic The four other contenders

10.00sec. A spokesworman for are Richard Nerurkar, sev-

Williams set to take final step

By PHIL YATES

winner: Eamonn Martin, the 1993 London winner and champion in Chicago in October. Paul Evans, second in New York in November, and Steve Brace, second in Housion last month.

There is little to choose between Martin, Evans and Brace from their most recent performances, while Nerurkar, though slower by four minutes, has shown up well in all the international championship marathons he has run. "We have to look at the ability of the athletes in difficult climatic conditions," Warner said, which suggests that Martin and Brace may be the unfortunate ones if the selectors fill all three places

It seems they might. "It has always been part of the policy to select early as far as possible," Warner said. How-ever, should they do so, they could be embarrassed. Supposing a non-selected athlete Tony Milovsorov in 1989 to break 2hr 10min? Evans, magnanimously given that Nerurkar has been injured recently, said yesterday that Whitehead and Nerurkar should be chosen, with the remainder settling the third-place argument in a spring marathon.

Not one British woman has attained the BAF standard for a guaranteed place, though chosing Liz McColgan would make sense. Karen Macleod, Marian Sutton and Suzanne Rigg have run qualifying times, but three into two will



Gunnell goes indoors and sidesteps hurdles today on her comeback from injury

Neary makes television debut

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

AN EXCITING British prospect from Liverpool makes his first appearance on national television tonight. Shea Neary, who is being hailed as a "white Nigel Benn", will be seen on ITV when he boxes at Everton Park sports centre.

light-welterweight for four years, but he is not known outside his home town. London promoters have tried without success to sign him.

Stephen Hyland, brother of John, who manages Neary. said: "No one has heard of Shea because we've kept him out of the public eye, but tonight the country will see something special."

Neary has an unbeaten record in 15 contests and holds the Central Area title. Thirteen of his bouts have had quick endings. In his last contest, he

3 8803 WHITE VOLLOW 23 (V.CD.F.S) Min M Revoley 7-11-11 to M Haughton (7) 95 4-P40 DMO MALTA 33 (D.S.) D Mesuican 8-11-3 . R Johnson (3) 87 5622 TEJAND SOLD 75 (D.S.5) P Bradley 6-10-13 A Thombon 90 6 5540 BRANGLEDERRY 23 (CD.S.5) Mis 5 Smith 7-10-13 97 9150 pccn (7) 97

7 2-37 DOWN THE FELL 98 (CD.F.8.5) January 7:10-119 Catheny 8 521- 1964 MED 206 (D.F.8.5) January 7:10-119 Catheny 8 521- 1964 MED 206 (D.F.8.5) L Subda 7:10-10 ... III Dutyer 86 9 3529 MED 2 CRUSS 14 (D.S.) N.J. Wilson 7:10-10 ... IL Harvey 96 10 12-3 SSYN 104 86.53 M M Excellenty 9:10-10 ... M.J. Californy 7:10 11 412- SAFRMATHON 178F (D.F.S) 31 Harveynd 5:10-0 ... A Dotton 88

3.15 MARSTON MOOR HAMMICAP CHASE

 3.45° Harold Charlton memorial Hinters chase (21,494. 3n 110)() (11)

3 47 ASTRE RADIELE 64P (6.5) J 0 Step 11-11-18

18 965- 18796 TM 378 (CD.F.S.S) N Tacks-Dave

14UNIT FLAT RACE (£1.606-2m) (25)

1. CSS- DACK DAVIN 285 (D.E.C.S.) Life J Brown 12-12-4... S Sinces 72 2 29-1 TEMPLANTER 14P (CD.F.G.S.) Mics C Saundes 13-12-0 B Patent (3) 88

4 29- CAROUSEL HOCKET 261 (D.F.C.5) 11 Hamman (3-11-11)

5 SQL- CARTON See S New 9-11-10 _____ A Galleto (7) 45 SQL- OF THE ROW 207 (V.D.F.C) bits 5 Backgare 11-11-10

7 U2- POLUNCO POT SIN (S) C Produ S-11-10 . S Whitaver (7) 60 6 - 197 OLOVAL CRUSSEST FIRST Care T1-11-18 . K Geom (7) 7 9 444 - SOUTHERN UNISHED 420 (C.F.C.) IN Observation 13-11-19 . Mac. C Medical T1-11-19 . Mac. C Medical T1-19 . Mac. C

11 2- William P 2017 (F.C) Mrs. J Sonry 7-11-10. C Storry (?) 56 7-4 Toping Ton, 9-2 Topinton, 5-1 Student Missird, 8-7 others.

4.20 LEVY BOARD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL

stopped the unbeaten Mark Richardson, of Guyana, in 130 seconds. Stephen Hyland said he did not believe anyone in Europe could stay the distance with Neary.

"No one wants to fight him." Hyland said. "We wanted to ht Paul Rvan, Ross Hale and Andy Holligan, but they wouldn't fight us. We asked the British Boxing Board of Control for a British title fight. but they gave us an eliminator with Bernard Paul, Then Paul pulled out."

Neary, born of Irish parents, is 27. He had an Beliast and the Falklands.

of boxing. He simply gets into the ring, gets the job done and gets out. "Doesn't go in for all that flashy stuff." Hyland said.

Neary's opponent will be Terry Southerland, an experienced American, from Cincinworried about Southerland, who has a record of 19 wins out of 21, exposing their man in any way. "We are not in the business of kidding the public," Hyland said.

Also on the ITV programme. Matthew Ellis, the Amateur Boxing Association heavyweight champion and Britain's latest white hope, makes his professional debut. Also managed by John Hyland, Ellis, 21, is 15st 10lb and oft bin, but is expected to scale lo stone in a year or two and lift the British title.

IN BRIEF

Seles goes down to defeat in **Tokyo**

MONICA SELES suffered her earliest exit since her comeback last year as she fell to Iva Majoli, 18, from Cro-atia, in the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yester-day. The joint world No I from the United States, who captured her fourth Australian Open title last week. staved off two match points before going down 6-1, 6-7, 4-6.

Majoli will take on Martina Hingis. 15, of Switzerland. who beat Naoko Sawamatsu. of Japan, 6-1, 6-2. The other semi-final will be an all-Spanish match between Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Foster in clear

Swimming: Mark Foster, the World Cup sprint freestyle champion, is almost certain to compete in the British Olympic trials next month in spite of a three-month suspension (Craig Lord writes).

Fina, the international governing body, suggested yester-day that, if a three-month suspension from competition in France imposed by that nation's federation - after Foster tested positive for cannabis at the French championships last July - were to be extended globally, it would 'probably be retroactive".

Denial on Senna

Motor racing: Italian authorities yesterday denied reports that Frank Williams and Patrick Head, of the Williams Formula One team, were expected to be charged with manslaughter after the inquiry into the death of Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix 21 months ago. An assistant to Maurizo Passarini, the Bologna prosecutor, said: "There has been no decision and no statement from the magistrate. These are all hypotheses that are being made but on the basis of nothing. They are just suppositions."

Alphand's third

Skiing: Luc Alphand, of France, clinched his third World Cup downhill victory of the season in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, vesterday. Alphand clocked Imin 52.61sec in the first downhill on the Kandahar piste since Ulrike Maier, of Austria. was killed in a crash two years ago. Brian Stemmle, of Canada, was second in Imin 52.95sec, with Peter Runggaldier, of Italy, third. 0.01sec behind.

Select band

Cycling: Great Britain will take 19 riders to the Olympic Games in Atlanta, three more than went to Barcelona in 1992. Eight have been preselected, including Chris Boardman, who will compete in the time-trial.

keen potting eye, yesterday added Dave Harold to his impressive list of victims at the event with a 6-1 victory.

The result, and more significome as something of a sur-prise to Peter Eddon, who title after losing to him in their

IT WAS, perhaps, inevitable that the Regal Weish Open smooker tournament, a grave-yard for the game's established players this year, would there was a stable of the stabl quarter-final on Wednesday 5-3. Ebdon, surprised by the number of high-risk pots from Williams, found it difficult to throw up a first-time finalist. Mark Williams will enter bëlieve he could maintain that level of accuracy on a regular encharted territory today hasis and said that his con-17 frames for a first prize of £36,000. the green" if he were to beat top players.
Those comments, while

Williams, 20, from Ebbw well-intentioned, could have Vale, who more than compenprovided the ideal motivation for Williams to repeat the sates for his relative lack of tactical finesse by possessing a same kind of display against Harold. Swashbuckling pots were again very much in evidence, even if sustained break-building was absent. Williams, who began the season occupying 39th pos-ition in the rankings but has

candy, the cavalier manner in which it was achieved, will the provisional list, regardless of the outcome in the final voiced doubts about Williams's ability to capture the

against John Parrott or Paul Hunter, managed only one half-century, a run of 58 in the fifth frame.... He did, however, succeed in

potting some potentially pivot-al balls, none more so than in the third frame when, striking the cue-ball across the nap, he sank a difficult pink to a middle pocket to seal the frame 54-44 for a 3-0 advantage. Williams also passed an examination of nerve in the seventh by fashioning a yellow-to-pink clearance tak-

ing that frame 55-41.
"What Peter said was rub-bish." Williams said. "I know I can keep playing like I did against him because I do it all the time in practice. It certainly wasn't a one-off, for sure. When I read in the papers now climbed to fourteenth on what Peter had said. I just

undistinguished amateur career and turned profession-

al at the age of 23 after leaving the Army. He was with the King's Regiment and served in According to Hyland, Neary is a throw-back to the old days

GOING STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

1.15 PELLEW APPRENTICES HANDICAP (Div f £1,872 1m) (8 runners)

101 CB-D MIND WELCOME 28 (V.CD.F.G) Mrs. N Macader 9-10-0

102 300- ROMAN REPL 53 (C.D.F.5) GL Meyor 5-9-13 L Safren (3) 4 (3) 385- EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY 59 (G) 4 Januar 5-9-13 L Safren (3) 4 (3) 385- EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY 59 (G) 4 Januar 5-9-11 ... A Deby 5 (8) 6 AB MAC'S TAXI 2 (C G) 7 Huchan 4-8-7 . Cavol Develor (6) 5 645- ZAMPAN 1-43 (CD) F.G.1 Januar 6-9-5 ... F. Ivnac (6) 5 105 5-90 PRINCESS PARROTT 9 (7) Lond Hummgrich 6-6-12 Ammer Coxid 50 7-4-58 (2) 2002,EM 16 S.D.9-1 Products 7-8-9 ... Fried (7) 7-106 3000 PRINCIPALS AS (7) M Bell 4-8-8 ... G Fastister (3) 1 7-4 Exclude Attention, 9-4 Ordern, 7-2 Rentin Red S-1 Med Melcome, 10-1 Process Partit, 13-1 Parametrica.

201 405- HATTA SURSHIPE 841 (CD,G) 4 Moore 6-9-10

20° (80.1 LALIYOUWSR 25 (D.S) Loof Harmondon 4-9-6. Mineta Cock 1 203 860- BAD NEWS 105 J Bradley 4-9-4. D Sweeziney 51-5 204 5-49 Out GETPRGY 8 (N.C.D.F.S.S) 66-5 N Microsley 5-9-7. Amendo Sanders 8

2.20 BLACKWOOD CLAIMING STAKES

407 4-00 ANYTRUE BABY 4 (C.C) P Dates, 4-3-4 P Michael Sanders (a) 7
408 10-6 CLASSIC PT 28 6T C Hugen 4-3-4 A Clark 12
409 06-0 DMAMOND BANGLE 22 C ECCH 4-9-1 II Adams 8

410 - 396 RERY FOOTSTEPS 8 S Campion 4-9-1 8 D Williams 1 411 - 4-00 LERSEY BELLE 7 (B, D, G) P Mebin 4-9-1 8 Sanders 4 412 - 0-30 INMASSIA 15 R Huad 4-9-1 9 M Feation 1 413 - 039 LEARNING COURSE 7 1M Prescott 3-8-0 8 Duffeld 11 414 0-06 MOSRI 7 J Flinch-Hayec 3-8-0 A Mackey 3 5-1 Magn. 6-1 Flory Footsteps, 13-2 Jursey Belle, 7-1 Classic Pet Pearl Down, 6-1 Proce Nation, Anyone Baby 3.20 LODESTONE PATIENT CARE MAIDEN

STAKES (£3,615 1m) (11)

11-4 Colden Pound, 3-1 Secret Sorting 7-2 Fresh Froit Daily, 5-1 Hactato, 6-1 Vende June, 10-1 Kellamic Call, 16-1 Gentung Range 3.55 JERVIS HANDICAP (£3,566-71) (11)

4-1 Raid: 9-2 Tuggarradu, 5-1 Gló Heoli. 11 2 Dako Valencino, 13-2 Sceleng, 7-1 Invocablen, 8-7 Littus Beet

4.25 COLLINGWOOD HANDICAP (£2,955, 1m 5f) (12)

5-2 Sacsaver 7-2 Milliona 9-2 Sacred Morre, 6-1 Mg Thompson, 10-1 Che, Catalan Just Lucky 12-1 Workshornblet

COURSE SPECIALISTS

LINGHELD PARK: Transer: M. Britant. 4 wirmers from 12 rutners: 30 % C Montey. 3 hote 72: 25 6%, Lord Huntangdon. 37 from 163, 21.9%. D Marrar: Smath. 12 from 56: 21.4%. 13 Prescoti 16 from 77. 20.8%. Josephys: Almeer Code, 3 warmers from 12 lides: 25 %; J. Weseer, 60 from 246. 24.2%; L. Sathern, 6 from 26: 23 1%, R. Cochang, 46 from 256, 17.8%. Thes, 20 from 114, 17.5%. COURSE, 48 BOW 236, 14,5% J 1885, 20 BOW 114, 14,35%.
WETHERBY: Trainers: D. Nicholson: 14 winners bow 48 courses
30.4%. Mr. M. Render, 44 from 154, 26 fb., 14 Enchan-Dewes, 5 from
18, 27.8% J 6stord, 4 from 17, 25.5% J Judyson 14 from 69,
30.3%; G Richards, 23 from 15, 20.6% Judyson; E Calendar, 6
winners from 12 falses 4 fb. 1, 175; 25 fb. 20 Judyson; E Calendar, 6
winners from 12 falses 4 fb. 1, 175; 25 fb. 20 Judyson; E Calendar, 6
winners from 12 falses 7 fb. 1, 175; 25 fb. 20 Judyson; E Sport ET,
13.4%; M Koloner, 3 from 25, 12.5%

BLINKERED FIRST TIME Lingseld Park: 1,15 Process Partol 145 Da Georgy 4,25 Chique Sandown Park: 4,40 The Ned

Wilson poised for Alnwick return

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

JUST two of eight planned meetings seem likely to beat the frost this weekend. The pour attempts to gain his seventh successive win in the at Alnwick on the Northumberland coast, should take place tomorrow.

"It's mild here. There's no frost, the going is on the firm side of good and no inspection is planned," the clerk of the course. John Taylor, reported yesterday.

Those words will cheer Noel Wilson, whose comeback after breaking his leg in the autumn was held up by last week's weather. He is set to ride three for the Yorkshire trainer. Tim Walford, although a touch of virus in the yard means that running plans are fluid.

The North Cornwall meeting at Wadebridge was in no doubt yesterday, and some interesting horses will run. The former Hennessy Gold Cup winner Ghofar, now 13, tackles the confined under his new trainer-rider, Charles Crosthwaite, who is based near Liskeard.

Tve spoken to David Elsworth, his previous trainer, about the horse and he suggested leaving the blinkers off," Crosthwaite said. "I just hope he is in a good mood."

in opposition could be one of the best young West Country horses, the six-year-old Just Bert, who will be ridden by former national champion Philip Scholfield, "I prefer to let the horse do the talking, but he is very promising." the Okehampion-based Scholfield

open. The postponement of tomorrow's North Western Hunt Chib's fixture for seven days means that champion men's rider Alastair Crow cannot make his seasonal debut, while Polly Curling has been denied a record attempt by the abandonment of today's New



Elsworth: Ghofar advice

Forest card. Curling was due to ride in nine races and could well have broken the postwar record of five wins in one afternoon.

Other postponed meetings are Dunstan Harriers, rearranged for Sunday week; Old Raby Hunt Club and Oxford University Hunt Club, February 17; Thurlow, February 18. TODAY'S MEETING: North Comwall (Wadebridge), one mile west of fown (first race, 12.00). TOMORPOW: West Persy & Milyein (Almwick). 3m E of Almwick (12.30)

DECEMBER OF THE PERSON OF THE

THUNDERER 1.10 Dato Star. 1.40 Flat Top. 2.10 Billygoat Gruff. 2.40 Issyin. 3.15 Dark Onl. 3.45 Teaplanter. 4.20 Carl Evens: 3,45 Templanter.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) 1.10 ACOMB HOVICES HUROLE

9-4 Date Star, 7-2 Bentues Barouri. 4-1 Salaston's Dateer. 6-1 others.

1,40 SPOFFORTH HANDICAP HURBLE

3-1 Outsel, 4-1 Top Cites, 5-1 Salber O'Brien, 6-1 Abbus Oil Figuress, 8-1 adhest.

2.10 SKIPTON HOVICES CHASE (£4,013: 2m 41 110yd) (9)

[24,M13. 2011 4] 1 10714 (3)

1 477 AMRO ANSON 21 (D.F.A) M Consumb 8-11-9 M Durger B

2 F231 CHEF RADDER 11 (D.F.R.S) J Winds B-11-9 A 5 Smith 65

3 13-2 BILLYSOAT GRUFF 14 (6.5) D Micholom 7-11-3 H Johnson 91

4 94 CALLERIOY 24 (5) D Lunch 6-11-3 A Minerior 91

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LINGFIELD PARK

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Saturday portrait: Rory Underwood, by Simon Barnes

Part-time hero ready to take wing from England rugby jet set

was thought to be the only example of its species still living. It was a weird moment: heavy with the past and full of disturbing implications about the future. I had the same sort of feeling when I spoke to Rory Underwood this week.

Perhaps nobody ever again will collect 82 rugby union caps for against Wales at Twickenham this afternoon. Perhaps nobody else will score 48 tries for England, plus another for the British Isles against New Zealand, Underwood holds the England record in both

Mere excellence, however, is not the reason why one must ponder on the possible extinction of the brate the fact that Underwood is a living fossil, a throw-back, It is the fact that he has another life. Most international rugby players have a life beyond training and playing, but increasingly these things are sports related. Their rugby eminence is, more and more, as time asses and rewards increase, a fact of their professional lives.

Underwood, of course, is in the Royal Air Force. England's flying wing. When not scoring tries, diving pell-mell to touch down one-handed in the corner through a hedge of hostile bodies, he was howling through Scotland at zero feet, keeping the world safe for democracy. It was all too comicbook to be true but it was fact. Dashing pilot-officer, dashing wing. He was, and is, the finisher. the sniffer, the man who appeared from nowhere to make the difference between victory and defeat. A touch of the Linekers about him, but more a Boy's Own Paper hero

brought to life. It is true that the RAF gave him plenty of time off to train: the Services are not blind to the kudos from sporting achievement. But the point about Underwood was that his was no grace-and-favour job. It was real. "The fact is that the RAF spent three or four million pounds to train me, so I am a very large asset in those terms," he said. The words are spoken matter-of-

obvious.

Yet as rugby moves, lurching. staggering and blinking hard, into the harsh light of modern professional sport, so standards and expectations rise. The rugby stars of the future will not be spending a third of their lives, or half their lives, on the game. Rugby will be all their lives, and nobody invests four million pounds on a man who has his being elsewhere, still less let him roar about the stratosphere with equipment that cost the

"I think that's right," Under-wood said. "I don't know if anyone else will be able to do it. It was always a very hard double to bring off, and it is harder now that I have

Underwood is 32, with two

'The speed and appetite remain strong. It is not his legs but his

time that has gone'

There is not much further to go as caps? "It would take three years. I don't think it is possible," he said. He has already retired once, in 1992, so he is not making any predictions about a second and necessarily final retirement.

For he is still fast. He last did a speed test before the World Cup, and was as fast as ever. He can have a bad game — a career of 12 years cannot but be sprinkled with bad games here and there — but he resists any suggestion that his

It is his time that has gone, or almost. There was that strange moment, in the autumn international against South Africa at Twickenham, when he and his captain, Will Carling, performed a me" with the bail, allowing Chescoming to an end.

That there was a backlog of disappointment from that World Cup defeat - trouncing - by New Zealand in the semi-final is undeniable. Underwood admits it, talks about a fresh start, a new season, and anyway getting to the semifinals was pretty damn good. He is still fast, the appetite for the strife still strong. But for many people, that transition from wild twenties to sober thirties is the biggest leap in a lifetime. Underwood no longer flies aeroplanes for a living. He has taken a ground-instruction job at RAF Cranwell. "Weird," he said, office, and a desk and a computer, and I can go and get my own pencils. Weird. But there's a ground job waiting for everybody.

All this is effortlessly English: quiet confidence behind quiet selfeprecation. And 82 caps, and the playing. Serving England in the RAF, playing for England. Eng-

land, Rory's England. But those cheek-bones. They are about as English as the cheekbones of Genghis Khan. They are pertainly much stranger than the hint of Asia in the eyes. Underwood is the son of a Yorkshire engineer who worked in Malaysia and married a Chinese-Malay woman named Annie.

Undwerwood lived in Malaysia until he was 14, and remembers endless football in the tropical warmth, always one-on-one with his brother, Gary. The younger brother, Tony, kept getting left out, brothers being brothers. "It's hard think of a bad memory about Malaysia," he said. Then it was back to England for schooling, but his father continued to work in Malaysia while Annie kept the family together in Yorkshire.

Underwood is half-Asian, but almost wholly English. "The English part is dominant with me." he said. That's not the case with either of my bothers. I'm very proud of my roots, but I'm more English than them. Probably something to do with being in the



on "flying a desk" for the RAF until 2001: a date at once remote and horrifyingly close. After that, who knows? But not rugby. "When I retire from the game, I will retire across the board," he said.

He would like to captain his club. Leicester, for a season before he calls it a day and, after that, simply carry on playing for Eng-land for as long as he is playing well. In a changing game, his

Daly does, indeed, have the

touch of a surgeon on and

around the greens, as he demonstrated when he single-

putted the 12th, 13th, 14th and

15th. On this last hole he sank

keen. "I'm not staying in the game for money that's now available," course, but it doesn't make any difference to the desire to play. When I think of retirement, I feel sorry for the players in other sports who are full-time sportsmen and nothing else. When they retire, they have nothing else to

The rugby players that follow

position of "flying wing", will not be flying aeroplanes as well. They will probably be faster and stronger, and they will certainly be richer. And many will watch them and yearn for the golden age when rughy footballers played and trained only in time off from the real world. But in sport, as in

everything else, time only moves in one direction. Underwood is a player who has.

almost had his time: a player of the Great Transition. Will he feel frustrated at having lived through waffle, shilly-shallying and

Will he say: "If time and administrators had been other, I might now be a millionaire?" A very straight look from above the breadth of the Genghis Khan cheek-bones. "I've got \$2 caps," he said, Now, 83.

Long-hitting Open champion proves his short game is sweet in Heineken Classic

Daly produces display of iron will

played sensible and solid," he

After two such good rounds.

which put him seven under

par, it was no surprise to hear

McGinley extol the condition

ers tend to criticise courses

badly. But it was a surprise to

hear him rate it above both

Portmarnock, where he com-

peted in the 1991 Walker Cup.

and Mount Juliet, the loving-

mance with a broad smile.

FROM JOHN HOPKINS COLF CORRESPONDENT

PAUL McGINLEY and John Daly are as different as Guinness and oysters. Mc-Ginley drinks, Daly is teetotal. Daly smokes, often lighting up during a round of golf, McGinley abhors the habit. McGinley is averagely long off the tee, Daly stupendously so. McGinley's coal-black hair frames a 240-watt smile; Daly is fair-skinned and fair-haired.

What they have in common here, as well as the habit of not wearing any head covering against the temperatures ap-

fiercest. His play, particularly the crisp and accurate iron

McGinley's 68 and — even more so - Daiy's 67 were among the most significant scores on the second day of the Heineken Classic at The Vines, near Perth. McGinley moved to share second place with Dean Robertson, three strokes behind Wayne Smith and one stroke ahead of Daly,

play, gladdened the heart of the engaging Dubliner. "I

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HANDICAP BETTING

10/11 England 12/1 Draw Wales (+12pts) 10/11 Ews Scotland (+5pts) 12/1 Draw france 4/5

WINNING MARGIN BETTING

...14-15 pts...

TRAY Drawn Mutch

Twickenberry Kick-off 3.00pm, Live on BSC TV.

SCOTLAND WARRING FRANCE

__11-15 ots...

21-25 pts

HEAT Drawn March

zyfield, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live on BBC SCOTLAND.

___16-20 pts.....**50/1** ___21-25 pts.....**100/1**

__12/1 __28/1

ENGLAND WINNING

the Open champion. If anything, it was even hotter than on the first day. A small blessing for McGinley, 29, was that he started his round at 7.30am and had just about finished by the time the sun was overhead and at its

ly-tended site of the past three Irish Opens. "The fairways, bunkers and greens are the best conditioned I have ever played on," McGinley said. Since he spent nearly five years competing on the best American courses while he was at college in San Diego, that is saying some-GRAB A FREE thing. "When you play courses of such high quality, then it has to be good for your game."

around overnight, making the par-72, 7,100-yard course play even harder. McGinley, however, made light of it, just as FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE Daly was to do later in the CALLERS staking \$25 or more day. He had five birdies and using Switch or Delta bank or made only two mistakes -ballooning a six-iron into a bunker, which cost him a stroke on the 14th, and missing the green on the 1st. Daly's self-control has been

questioned so often in the past, the second day he totally

refrained from using woods. said, summing up his perfor-"It's the first time in my life I've hit irons for 36 holes," Daly said. He was tempted once or twice but wisely used the long irons with which he can hit the ball so far. "He's 40 of this course. After all, playyards longer than me with a driver," Ian Woosnam said. only when they have scored

> Jack Nicklaus made an acute observation about Daly recently when he watched the Open champion play one of those deft shots around the green for which he is not fully recognised. "But for his short game," Nicklaus said. "John Daly would be just another long hitter. There are plenty of

a 75ft putt, striking it with such force it smacked into the back of the hole and jumped "He hits his one-iron as far as into the air. I hit my driver." Twice he saved par with deft

shots when he was off the putting surface and only a few feet from the flag, but as much as four feet below the hole. On the 13th, he hit a high pitch close to the pin; on the 17th he chose to run an eight-iron up the bank and he did it so accurately that the ball clipped the side of the hole before stopping two feet away.



Daly plays his second shot from the 17th fairway on his way to a 67. Photograph: David Cannon/Allsports

Faldo rues putting lapses

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEREY

NICK FALDO was seeking slide-rule accuracy with his putter when he resumed his challenge for the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am under cloudy skies on the Monterey Peninsula here yesterday.

He twice missed putts from inside three feet in an opening round of 69, which cost him a share of the lead held by two Americans, Justin Leonard and John Elliott.

Faldo, who played his opening round on the Poppy Hills course, returned to tournament headquarters at Pebble Beach for a two-hour session on the practice green, where he used a metal ruler to line up his putts. The former Open and US Masters champion placed his ball at the tip of the yard-long ruler and frequently found the target from 15 feet.

"It's one of my drills," he explained. "I cannot afford to miss short putts like that if I'm going to have a chance here." After dropping shots at the 6th and 7th holes, Faldo recovered well with the help of four birdies. "They kept me in the tournament and now it is up to me to make the most of it." he

Howard Clark, who was in fourteenth place alongside Faldo, would also have shared the lead had he not had a six at the last hole of his round at Pebble Beach, where he hit his second shot into the back of a hazard.

The Yorkshireman was back in the fitness trailer before starting his second round at Poppy Hills. I was close to pulling out before the first round because of a painful back but it has eased considerably," he said. Sandy Lyle was also happy

after his round of 70, which confirmed that he is on the way back. The Scot is now an impressive 27 under par for the ten rounds he has played since rejoining the US PGA

Daggers carve place in Test match history

IF THERE is one thing that this column truly prides itself on, it is a sense of proportion.

I bring you only the truly important aspects of sporting life, and then only with true pedantry. And so, as New Zealand and Zimbabwe meet today in the final one-day cricket match of their series, let us ask ourselves this question: how many times, before these two met, have the opposing captains in a Test match also been their

team's wicketkeeper? Answer: never, until these countries played their threematch Test series this winter. So let us salute *Lee Germon (New Zealand) and *Andy Flower (Zimbabwe). History

The combination of dagger and asterisk, rare in cricket, is very rare indeed at Test level. There are, I can reveal, only 15 other examples since time and cricket began. You want 'em? Murdoch (Aus), Blackham (Aus), Halliwell (SA), Bisset (SA), Sherwell (SA), Stanyforth (Eng), Nunes (WI), Cameron (SA), Alexander (WI), Impiaz Ahmed (Pak), Jarman (Aus). Wasim Bari (Pak), Deryck Murray (WI), Ian Smith (NZ), Alec Stewart (Eng).

Horse sense

Which chunk of cricketing pedantry brings us to the burning question: what was unusual about the match played at Linsted Park in 1794 between the Gentlemen of the Hill and the Gentlemen of the Dale? Answer: the match was played on horse-back. Knowledge of this im-portant fact assisted a team from this newspaper to victory this week in the Howzat! Cricket Quiz Challenge, organised by Barnardo's at the Oval. They beat the Daily Express in the final.

Palace coup

In September 1990, L.J. Dunnell backed his football club, Crystal Palace, to win what was then the first division. Not overly rash, he staked El each way at 66-1. Believe it or not, oh ye football fans of short memory, they finished third, has been possible to buy mon Carpenter were they?



SIMON **BARNES**

On Saturday

Dunnell wrote to his bookies, William Hill, this week: "I have only just found the ticket again, having hidden it in such a safe place that I'd forgotten where it was by the end of the season. As Palace are unlikely to finish in the top three of the Premier League in my lifetime, would it still be possible to collect on this ticket? Hill's coughed up, £15.75p.

Cash it in The odds on Hills paying op are greater than Palace. in the top three



Upward spiral

The boom sport in the United States? Skating, what else. Like gymnastics, skating is a major sport overlooked by many people who should know better entirely because know better, entirely because women provide the bulk of the viewers. And to what does the sport owe the surge in popularity? To the chain of scandal that began with Tonia Harding and the famous knee-capping of Nancy Kerrigan.

This was followed by the incident of Nicole Bobek who was accused of breaking into a house, and then by the horror attaching to Elizabeth Pussalan, whose brother stabbed their father to death. Meanwhile, undaunted, Tonia has kept things going in her own inimitable way. It

videos of Tonia in a car chase with the police, and also of Tonia's wedding night. Ratings soar: and so do the

Paper tiger

They take cricket seriously in the Caribbean. Recently, a gentleman named Dr Au-brey Armstrong, scorning the usual avenue of a letter to the editor, and clearly believing that half-measures are never any good, took out a full-page advertisement in the Barbados paper. The Nation, to express his views on the game and on the West Indies team:

Dr Armstrong rattled on fulsomely about the need for a sports psychologist and the passing of a dynasty, and called for an end to the washing of dirty laundry in-

Hidden extras

Rather than taking out a fullpage advertisement in this newspaper, R.S. Tailyour writes to me instead, bidding the England cricket team takes courage, despite the humiliation suffered at the end of the tour to South Africa.

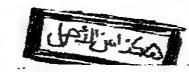
He produces a scorecard for the match between Huntingdon Grammar School and St Mary's Choir School, culled from The Times of July 24, 1928. The choirboys were all out for two, the total including a bye and a no-ball. So, naturally, there were also ten ducks and one nought not out. Carpenter took seven wickets, White two, and the other was a quixotic attempt at an actual run, which inevitably ended in failure.

"The members of the national team can comfort themselves that their performance was slightly better," Mr Tailyour writes. Ah, yes, but they weren't facing the de-

Vigrance pre return to raditional







Scotland face step up in class

France prepare to return to their traditional game

between Scotland and France at Murrayfield this afternoon as a grand slam decider, the Royal Bank of Scotland international is likely to be the defining match of the five nations' tournament this season. After both countries won their opening games, whoever emerges triumphant this afternoon will have a luge part to play in the outcome of the championship.

Scotland know not to read too much into the manner of France's defeat of England, although they would be right to consider its implications. Having finally laid to rest the England bogy in the five nations', France, under Jean-Claude Skrela and Jo Maso, can concentrate on reintroducing a dash of boio into their dre, their captain, said this week, he and France have a mental picture of how rugby should be played. Today, the canvas is again blank; whether the 67,000 crowd will see a masterpiece or a pastiche remains to be seen.

France must decide beforehand their battle plan; they, and Thierry Lacroix in particular, must be wary of being caught in two minds. Yesterday, they were talking of a return to their finest tradi-

The omens are good. The sides invariably bring out the best in each other, the games in Paris and Pretoria last year were classics and the outcome this afternoon is likely to be equally close - too close to

Against England, France proved that, when necessary. they can jettison the flamboy-

C A Joiner (Metroue)

WHILE it is premature to ant and bump and grind it toget swept away by the tide of consider the 68th meeting with the best. New Zealand praise that greeted the win in included. Pragmatism and self-discipline have been introthey are, as Jim Teller, the Scotland manager, said yesterday, the same size as Ire-land's eight — that is half a stone heavier per man than Scotland — but these the similarities end. They are a fearsome unit, although, if they, lack one element, it is mobility and that is the area Scotland will try to exploit.

The Scots will not want to be dragged into a stamina-sapping war of attrition. Rather, they will look to rely on the fast-rucking and quick posses-



CHAMPIONSHIP

sion that served them so well in Ireland and that allowed Redpath and Townsend to said than done, through, and France will not be as accommodating as the Irisk.

Scotland can draw strength and encouragement not only from the performance in Dub-lin, but also those two games last year and an impressive record against France at Murrayfield, where they have lost only once since 1978. While savouring the victory, Telfer is no much of a realist

4 E Nameck (Touches) J-M Genzatée (Bayorne) C Celifició (Teulociae)

Raplacements: 16 P Bernat-Salles (Bégles-Bordeaut), 17 S Gias (Bourgoin), 18 G Accocaberry (Bègles-Bordeaut), 18 R Castel (Toutouse), 20 M de Rougemont (Touton), 21 L Bénézach (Racing).

praise that greeted the win in Ireland. Scotland struggled in the lineout, where they only belatedly came to terms with Fulcher and Francis. Now is the time for Doddie Weir to produce the performance he owes Scotland, although he and Campbell have to be more streetwise than of late against Merle and Roumat. With a France back row that includes the converted lock. Fabian Pelous, Scotland will need to be at their spoiling best. They also need to develop a foller

Where Scotland also believe they can prosper is in mid-field. Three years ago, Penaud was at stand-off half and Lacroix at centre as France beat South Africa 18-17 to seal a series win. The positions are reversed at Murrayfield. where the outspoken Penaud plays only his second game at centre, inexperience which Scotland hope to exploit.

France are unmatched in their back three, where Sadourny, Saint-André and NTamack can each create, country attack and score almost at will. Between them, they hold 114 caps and have scored 47 tries, six of them in the past three matches against-Scotland, Gregor Townsend's tactical kicking will have to be of the highest class. In con-trast, Scotland's trio of Dods, Joiner and Shepherd has a makeshift look about it; they are more competent than inspirational.

Telfer knows that Scotland will need to improve by at least 20 per cent to have any hope of winning. France have far more pedigree than Ire-land, he said. The fact that they are playing away from home doesn't mean a thing as they showed in the World Cup and in New Zealand, Their matches last autumn with the All Blacks were something to behold. The big hits and physical confrontations brought tears to the eyes." Scotland's second string showed the senior side the way forward with a wellcarned 38-32 victory over their scoring encounter at Myreside

dwell on that. Now, a playing



Hastings the centre of attention

en years ago the broth-ers Hastings, two cal-low but confident youngsters, made their first international appearances for Scotland against France, Gavin, as is his wont, marked the occasion by kicking all 18 points in a one-point victory. A decade on, Gavin has gone and with it any hint of sibling rivalry; much has changed and Scott, who today wins his 59th international cap, against the French, and who is comfortably Scotland's

most capped centre, is the last remaining link with that era. For years their careers marched hand in hand with both winning their fiftieth cap against France two years ago. During that period, however, it was Gavin's prodigious scoring feats that attracted the héadlines. Scott's achievements, not as obvious, were

trumped at every turn. If he was bitter, it did not show; although a clue to his innermost feelings is revealed in the Rugby Union Who's Who, in which he lists his most emberrassing moment as discovering Gavin was his

Not that he would wish to

Mark Souster meets a Scotland player free, at last, from his brother's shadow

to first World Cup, followed

by British Isles tours, and the

crowning moment, the grand

slam triumph of 1990. Suc-

cess, though, has been mixed

with failure - the heartache

of being dropped after the

debacie against South Africa,

his public humiliation

against New Zealand in 1993.

and several serious injuries.

It also irks him that his

defensive capabilities are

highlighted at the expense of

his attacking skills, too often

stifled by Scotland's limited

ishing the prospect of attacking what

looks like a disjointed French

midfield, said: "lan Jardine

and I may not have the silky

touches of a Jeremy Guscott

but if we breach the gain-line,

stay on our feet in the tackle

and set up good second or

third-phase ball then all the

better. I can't wait for the

game. I still have immense

pride in playing for Scotland and feel I can still produce

India risk

astings, who is rel-

career that looked dead in the water at the end of 1994, has come full circle, the wheel of fortune having moved back in his favour, testament to his commitment, staying power and still-burning ambition.

"It is frightening that ten years have gone so quickly. I can remember everything as if it were yesterday. In a way I am the last link with the amateur same. I have one or two years left but I am ased to have come through in an era when contracts haven't been involved." Has-

Such a long international

career appears unthinkable in the increasingly bectic world of professionalism. "If I was 21 or 22 and starting out in the Scotland squad now I don't think I could go on for ten years. But I hope the experience I have can be used: I know I have got to perform to a level so other players can look to me as an

His life has been one big stepping-stone, from first cap.

many respects France and Scotland bring out the best in each other. It should be an open, free-running contest."

After the sweetest of victories in Dublin, the sense of expectancy at Murrayfield will be huge. "France are the best team in the championship, as their record shows over the past 12 months. They have flair and passion but we are not far off," he continued.
Concentration will be absolute and Hastings will ensure his does not waver by chanting little catch phrases to himself, such as "attack the gap" and "pace and space". So what is left for a man

who came back in style in South Africa, scoring in the process his first international tries since 1991? For a start and perhaps even a finish there is Scotland's summer tour to New Zealand by which time he should have finally eclipsed Gavin's record as Scotland's most capped player.

It would be ironic, also, if the Scots were to pull off victory against the All Blacks - something even Gavin did not manage to achieve while playing for his country.

England's women aiming to conquer prejudice

By Alison Kervin

WHEN Joan Benoit won the first women's Olympic marathon, in 1984, she explained how complicated training could be for a woman in a "male" sport. "When I first started training I was so embarrassed, I would walk when cars passed me and pretend I was looking at the flowers." she said.

Much has changed for female marathon runners. But what of sports that are still considered to be entirely masculine in image, like women's rugby? As England prepare to take on Wales at Twickenham today, their female opposite numbers are training for the women's home nations match with Wales at Leicester tomorrow. Luckily, their ambition to play a game they love has not been throttled by insecurities

and prejudices. The game is well estab-lished, with 225 women's clubs and more than 7,000 participants in England alone, it is the fastest-growing sport for women in Britain. This season alone, more than 30 new clubs have registered. However, the game is still treated dismissively by many, and with disapproval by a few.

"One of the problems we face is that when women start playing the game they are real beginners," Gill Burns, the England captain, said, "Very few have played at school before, so people watching a women's game for the first time see a group of adults playing like beginners. They need to come along to see a senior club game, where there are people who have been in the game for a few years."

This is the first women's home nations tournament. France are not involved because of the expense of travelling to Paris - the women still pay their own travel and accommodation. However, England, the world champions, are paving the way by meeting France in an international on February 18.

The 45-strong England squad has been in regular training since September. Julie Twigg, who cut her teeth as a Great Britain rugby league international, makes her debut in the centre. Wales are led by Sue Butler, the Richmond flanker. Her team have struggled recently, but a new wave of young players has come through.

"I watch videos of internationals from a few years ago that we thought were really good, and suddenly realise how much we have come on since then," Burns said.

Scotland 21 (Blackrock College), Fa-bures: Tomorrow: England v Wates Rejeaster) Feb 18: Wates v Scotland (Cardiff), Mar 2: returnd v Wates (Blackrock College); Scotland v England (Borough-mut), Mar 17: England v Ireland (Ortell)

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SCOTLAND RJ S Shapberd (Mairose).

C Jardine (Stirling County) R I Wainwright (Waterniens, papi): 8 . A Benazzi (Agen)

Paptacements: 16 K M Logan (String Co), 17 C M Chalmens (Melrose), 18 G Armstrong (Newcasile), 18 S Murray (Edin Acads), 20 A P Burnell (London Scottsen), 21 J A Hay (Hawick).

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FRODUCTORY OF

FRANCE

O Roumet (Dec)

8 F. Peloue (Dec) Kick-off, Spm — TV coverage: SBC1

yesterday. Damien Cronin. the captain, scored two of Scotland's four tries, while Scott Welsh, at stand-off half, chalked up 18 points before L Cebernies (Richal being injured late in a game that yielded nine tries. Four of them came in the final 12 minutes as France found space in a tiring Scottish defence to threaten an improb-

ATHLETICS ERFURIT, Germany. Pole yetat: Women: Sun Cayun (Chine) 4.27m (scord record).

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ICE HOCKEY

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MENPORT: Regal Welch Opers: Cuarter-linets: P Huster (Eng) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-4 Santi-finals: M Williams (Wales) bt O Harold (Eng) 6-1.

ZAGREE: Man's tournament: First round: lateriseve: In M. Sirmer (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; M. Greener (Ger) by J. Sánchez (Sp) 7-6, 6-4

TDMYC: Women's totaments (as) 74, 74 TDMYC: Warning (Sp.) bt L Daverpor (US) 6-2, 6-3, 1 Majoli (Cro) bt M Scher (US) 7-8, 7-8, 6-4; M Hinds (Switz) bt M Savatraba (Japan) 8-1, 6-2; A Santhez Weens (Sp.) bt M Moleone (Bul) 7-5, 6-3

Olympic suspension By Sydney Friskin INDÍA may be suspended

from the Olympic Games if they do not honour their commitment to play against England in the international match at Milton Keynes on March 24 that will open the new stadium. The International Hockey

Pederation has told the Indian Hockey Federation that if it fulfils its threat to withdraw from the fixture, it will also be fined and will have to reimburse the host country. On the domestic front, Julian Halls, whose back injury prevented him from playing for Great Britain in the Olympic qualfying tournament at Barcelona, is now fit to play for Old Loughtonians this weekend in cup and league engage-

Old Loughtonians are at home to Trojans in the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup today and away at East Grinstead tomorrow in the National League, where they hold fourth place in the first division. Phillip McGuire, whose

back injury kept him out of the first half of the National League programme, will make his reappearance to-morrow for Teddington against Reading. Laslett will not play for Teddington and Wyatt will be missing from Reading's line-up.

Mayer, who was also with them at Barcelona, will, however, play for Cannock, the league leaders, who are at home to Guildford. This could be the match of the day as Guildford will be challenging at full strength. Their team includes Daniel Hall. who also represented Britain



20/1 L Davies 18/1 Wales win by 11-15 points 33/1 Wates win by 16-20 points 20/1 N. Davies SCOTLAND V FRANCE Marry Field. 15th off 3.60 pm. Live de 1880 Sectio 15/8 SCOTLAND 2/5 FRANCE 15/1-THE DRAW Wantey Points Margin Pirst Tryscore 41 Scotland win by 1-5 points 19/1 St-Andre N/I Scotland win by 6-10 points 14/1 Joiner 16/1 Scotland win by 11-15 points 41 France win by 1-6 points 16/1 Lacrobs 7/2 France win by 6-10 points \$12 France win by 11-15 points Other tryscorers and margins on request. Penalty trys do not count for first tryscorer.

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1996

Wales reliant on innocence of youth for expansive game



The ghostly figures of the Wales forwards run through a lineout drill in preparation for meeting England at Twickenham this afternoon. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Time for England to perform

By David Hands rugby correspondent

THERE is a seductive argument that suggests that there could be no better time than at Twickenham today for England to start playing the rugby of the Nineties to which they are said to aspire: the allconquering 1995 five nations' whitewashed in the championship a year ago.

The relative positions of the countries could not be more black and white, save for the significant changes that have affected rugby in the past ten months. As well as rugby union's philosophy, those changes apply to personnel. many of whom have been through the grinder of the World Cup last summer.

In England's case, that tournament marked the conclusion of some distinguished careers and brought demands for a more expansive game. In the case of Wales, they, too, have lost experienced players and have their third team management in less than a

Talking new-era rugby is one thing - playing it quite another. At least England, somewhat late in the day, have begun to get their minds around what is required, and that mental shift is significant Wales remain the more innate rugby players and there is nothing that they would like more than to pick up the pieces of an error-strewn approach with which England are uncomfortable.

When the England squad came together last weekend. the players discussed in detail the style that they wanted to

pre-Christmas games with South Africa and Western Samoa, and against France, two weeks ago, they reverted to the game that had been

successful in Paris since 1988. Whether their honesty session will bear instant fruit will only be seen in the 102nd meeting of the countries this at ease now — and, if unusually severe training at Roehampton yesterday was any guide, determined not to compound defeat to France by losing to a nation that has not

at Twickenham since

No player has suffered more from the post-World Cup trauma than Mike Catt. A year international rugby seemed easy; now, the "strike runner" at full back has become a blunt instrument in a back division that has lost

his co-tenants in the back three have changed, with the introduction to the right wing first of Damian Hopley, then Jon Sleightholme, and a new pair of half backs have been assimilated. "I think the criticism has been unfair," Catt said. "If the opportunities had been there and I messed up. it would have been different, but they haven't been.

A PROPERTY OF



coherence. At the same time, "We have players who are

among the best in the world at what they do. We have to get the ball to Will [Carling] and Jerry [Guscott], and as a back three we are hungry for possession. I'm not going to do anything silly and get caught in my own half all the time,

but I want to try things, I want to be more adventurnus. "I'm a better runner with the ball than I am a kicker

ENGLAND

W D C Carling (Harlequins, capt)

R Underwood (Leicester/RAF

M J S Dawson (Northampton

T A K Rodber (Northampicn/Army)

P J Gravson (Northampton)

G C Rowntree (Lercester)

M O Johnson (Leicester)

L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)

Ret: K W McCartney (Scotland)

Replacements: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glarnville (Bath), 18 K P P Bracken (Bristol), 19 V E Ubogu (Bath), 20 R G R Daws (Bath), 21 D Richards (Lexester).

B B Clarke (Bath)

M P Regan (Bristol)

J Leonard (Harleouns)

M J Cett (Bath)

J C Guscott (Bath)

anyway, while Wales have some new faces with nothing to lose. If they want to play an expansive game, that could be good furn." Good furn? Is this a professional rugby player speaking? If it is, thank heaveri for someone who is not

Kevin Bowring, the Wales

for players to be aware of how much it costs to support the national team in this day and age. "The style that suits our young players is an expansive

one and, if we can produce that, it will entertain the public, too," Bowring said. He might even remember the youth of the Wales team that came together in 1969 - two 20-year-olds in J P R Williams and Keith Jarrett, Gareth Edwards at 21, Mervyn Davies 22. They turned out to be halfdecent players.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

L B Davies (Neath) N G Davies (Lianelli W.T. Proctor /I Jacosti A C Thomas (Bristol) R Howley (Bridgend) A L P Lewis (Cardifi)

WALES

15 WJLThomas (Uansii)

14 I C Evans (Lianett)

J D Humphreys (Cardiff, capt) J D Davies (Neath) E W Lewis (Cardiff) G O Liewellyn (Neath) D Jones (Cardiff)

R G Jones (Lianelli)

8 H T Taylor (Cardiff) Kick-aff: 3pm TV coverage: BBC1 Reptacements: 16 G Thomas (Bridgend), 17 N R Jenkins (Pontypriddi), 18 A P Moore (Cardiff), 19 S Williams (Neath), 20 L Mustoe (Cerdiff), 21 G R Jenkins

of the physical challenge posed by England and, in particular, by the big back-row forwards, who will come running into the midfield oc-cupied by 10st 11lb fif he is to be believed) Arwel Thomas.

The challenge is to stop players like Rodber, knock him backwards or move him said. "Arwel's a very brave player. He proved himself as a 19-year-old, playing for Neath against the South Africans two

years ago." More to the point, however, Thomas is a footballing standoff, light on his feet, cool of brain; his selection is a triumph for instinct as against modern methodology as rep-

resented by Neil Jenkins. Can this Wales team give him the chance to express his talents? The memory of Italy unravelling the Wales mid-field during the final quarter of their game in Cardiff last month remains fresh. "We stopped talking to each other when we got to 31-3 and nearly lost." Jonathan: Humphreys, Wales's chirpy captain, said. In a similar position at Twickenham, Humphreys and his colleagues would be be

screaming their heads off. However, what Italy could do a far more experienced and heavily-favoured England should also be able to achieve. Matt Dawson and Paul Grayson, their half backs, have it in them to vary play far more than the game plan required in Paris, and now is the time for them to do so.

Dallaglio deal, page 3 Underwood portrait, page 46 Scots' central figure, page 47

Security fears dominating build-up for World Cup

vening with hopes that the cricket World Cup will pass off smoothly on the sub-continent looking more forlorn, than ever. The organisers have confirmed they will decide by tomorrow whether the four matches scheduled for Sri

Lanka can go ahead.

Although the verdict will not affect England, who play one group match in India and the other four in Pakistan, they are not without their security

Their final qualifying fix-ture, against Pakistan on March 3, will be played in Karachi, a city that saw nearly 1,800 people killed in political violence last year.

The opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which represents Urdu-speak-ing migrants from India, was heavily involved in the troubles and yesterday warned the Pakistan government that it would disrupt the cricket unless security operations against the party's followers

were halted. "If the government contin-ues raids, arrests and extra-judicial killings of our activists during the World Cup then we would go for strong protest,
Ajmal Dehlvl, a senior MQM
leader, said.
However, the sorts of pos-

sible action Dehlvi outlined sounded disruptive rather than violent. One other group game, between Pakisian and South Africa, and a quarter-final will also be staged in Karachi.

England must play two of their group matches in the north-west frontier city of Peshawar, where the stadium has witnessed some unpleasant scenes, with visiting play-ers struck by missiles and bombarded with firecrackers.

The England players will be hotels in either Karachi or Peshawar. John Barclay, the tour manager, will be in regular touch with the local British High Commissions about security during the tournament. He has also sought the guidance of Mike Vockins, the manager of the recent England A tour to Pakistan.

The Pakistan interior minister, Nascerullah Babar, said

ENGLAND'S 14-man party yesterday that the government leaves London for Lahore this would take full responsibility would take full responsibility for the World Cup being played without disturbance. "Normal conditions will prevail during the matches," he said. "Pakistanis will like to see the matches and not tarnish the image of the coun-

convenor of the organising committee, Pilcom, said that he had been in touch with cricket officials in Sri Lanka, where a suicide bomber in Colombo killed more than 70 people on Wednesday, but wanted more time to assess the situation.

"I have requested the Inter-national Cricket Council and the Australian Cricket Board to give us until Sunday to decide whether matches in Sri-Lanka can go ahead," he said. He refused to confirm reports that Pilcom was making contingency plans to move Sri Lanka's four matches to India and Pakistan.

"it's too early to say anything, nothing has been sorted out, but we are obviously very concerned at the develop

moments to ments in Sri Lanka," he added. Officials at the Wankhede Stadium, in Bombey, said that the match between Sri Lanka and Australia, scheduled for Colombo on February 17. could be played at the ground.

marcused of

Australian players and officials are considering forfeiting the match if the venue remains in Sri Lanks and may even pull their side out of the tournament altogether. The Australian board meets early next week and will then discuss the matter with the players, who will by then be at a training camp in Brisbane. One Australia player, Craig the victim of a hoax telephone caller, who claimed to have planted a bomb at his home in

Oueensland: West Indies, Zimbabwe and Kenya are also due to play matches in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Kenya officials have said their teams are happy to do so; West Indies officials are monitoring developments closely.

Cantona returns but minder is warned off

MANCHESTER United were eager to play down Eric Cantona's return to the scene of the crime, but controversy seems inseparable from their visits to Selhurst Park (Peter Ball writes). Yesterday, the role of Cantona's minder. Ned Kelly, became the subject for concern, with the ground's chief steward saying that Kelly would not be allowed to fulfil his usual role at the game against Wimbledon

The tunnel area is for the 1 exclusive use of players, management and match officials, and once the players come off the coach and into the ground, they are in our hands, not the responsibility of private sec-urity guards," Bob Morrison, the chief steward, said.

But Alex Ferguson, the United manager, countered: "Ned is part of the official party.

Students of the game pay homage

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

choose to have him on the supper. The haggis was bench, that's our decision." . There have been suggestions that Crystal Palace supporters might attempt to stir things up by infiltrating the ground, but with 16,500 tickets in a capacity crowd going to United supporters, Cantona will have plenty of

Howley, left, and Thomas, the Wales half backs, in

relaxed mood during training at Sandhurst yesterday

☐ Birmingham City will have to play a home match behind closed doors if their supporters step out of line this year. The club was found guilty by the Football Association of two misconduct charges arising from crowd disturbances during the game against Millwall at St Andrew's in November. The punishment has been suspended until December 31.

McManaman role, page 42 Robson's choice, page 43 IT WAS the traditional Burns

brought in as a guitarist incited 250 voices to sing For If's A Grand Old Team To Play For. Much, much later, once all the speeches had been made, the evening ended in the long-established manner. Tommy gave a zestful rendi-tion of his favourite song. Mack The Knife, before an

eestatic audience. This, you will gather, was not an occasion to honour the memory of Scotland's national poet: Burns, Robert, The audience would scarcely have tolerated that. James Lamb. secretary of the Heriot Watt and Edinburgh Universities' Celtic Supporters Club, was probably in tune with his members when he described the poet, accurately but incompletely, as "some womanising arch-Freemason".

The sell-out crowd crammed into a banqueting hall in Edinburgh much prefer to acclaim the Celtic manager: Burns, Tommy. Thursday's was the tenth annual supper and Burns, appreciating the affection and exuberant eccentricity that wait to greet him there, has missed only one.

The surname does help explain his role in proceed ings, but it is a rapport with supporters that accounts for the supper's survival. Those who follow Celtic have never doubted that Burns's passion for the club is at least as great as their own. These, however, are students and levity, if not mockery, must mask the reverence. Witty presentations are always made and so, a few years ago. when Burns's wife was pregnant, he was given a set of Pampers, numbered one to eleven in the manner of the Celtic shorts.

On Thursday, another guest. Peter Grant, a midfield player more admired for industry than artistry, received some extra-long studs. "So the ball doesn't go under your foot," it was explained con erately. The full back, Jackie McNamara, whose car was broken into on the day hesigned for Celtic, got a leaflet

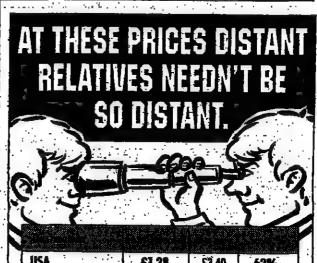
on vehicle alarms. The event probably arose from a desire to tease. Celtic supporters would regard the regular form of Burns supper as one of the rituals of the establishment and feelings of disaffection seem to have been particularly strong on campus. As one of the founders of the alternative supper. Paul Reilly, puts it: "Edinburgh University was an appalling, middle-class place then, it was full of people called Tarquin." One member of the audi-

ence, Ross Ballantyne, is so

flew back from Texas, where he now works as an engineer. in order to attend. The frivolity of the Burns supper, however, also serves a serious purpose, since its proceeds go

"It gets better every year," the Celtic manager said. "Only students could liave come up with this. I appreciate it because it would have been very easy for them to let the whole thing drop when I moved from Celtic to Kilman nock in 1989. I look forward to attending, but it also makes me feel very humble."

This year, however, his famous namesake did manage to make an appearance at the supper. Indeed, a famous portrait of Rabbie Burns was reproduced on the front of the programme for the evening. Mind you, the bard had somehow acquired a Ceitic scarf and bobble hat.



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Skeletons in Republican's cupboard include ploys to avoid tax and Vietnam War

The Forbes image loses minate lustre under glare of media scrutiny From Martin Fletcher in washington STEVE FORBES's free ride is with awkward disclosures advisers that the only hope of about Mr Forbes's pre-came their man winning this paign settlement of his secremonth's crucial lowa and New and Secremont with Mr Secremont with

dential race, the American media has begun subjecting him to serious scrutiny.
Yesterday The Wall Street

Journal and The Washington Post published long biographical articles on this improbable candidate which contained unflattering disclosures about his avoidance of the Vietnam War, his exploitation of tax loopholes, the unsavoury records of some of his advis-ers, and his flamboyant father's homosexual traits.

he chairs.

terday, the White House said that President Clinton had rebuked Richard Morris, his political guru, for secretly sending private polling data to Robert Dole, the Republican frontrunner whose lead Mr Newsweek and The New Forbes is rapidly eroding. Mr York Times have chipped in Morris told the Senate leader's

Clinton faces subpoena

after Hillary Clinton's subocenaed appearance before federal grand jury, Presi-dent Clinton faces a possible subpoens to testify in an Arkansas fraud trial (Martin Fletcher writes).

Susan McDougal, one of the Clintons' partners in the Whitewater Development paign finance arrangements. The Federal Election Commission is examining possibly illegal corporate contributions from Forbes Inc, the company In another development yes-

to compel the President to testify when her trial begins Having drawn a high draft

next month. Mrs McDougal's estranged husband, James, the Clintons other Whitewater partner and a codefendant, is also attempting to obtain the President's testimony but without resorting to a subpoena. Mr Clinton declined to comment because I don't know what

Clinton on balancing the federal budger. The Dole camp rejected this "cynical attempt to blackmail us into a deal regardless of principle" and The Wall Street Journal

called Mr Forbes's life "one of ease and privilege" and pointed to the conspicuous "lack of crises and tough decisions that shape political character". It quoted him identifying his biggest challenges as primary school, college and taking over the family magazine, and continued: "At several critical junctures in his life, Mr Forbes seemed to sidestep difficult decisions."

sposed the ruse.

number during the Vietnam War he carefully chose to minimise his chances of going by joining the National Guard long before he had to. As second-in-command of Forbes Inc. he had failed to act on reports that his father was "propositioning male staff-ers". He has also "embraced political experts known for negative advertising and ex-



Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, greets a supporter from his campaign bus in Council Bluffs, Iowa

ploiting themes of race and homosexuality to win elec-

The Washington Post noted that Mr Forbes had "spent his entire life nestled in the world his family's wealth created for him", rarely venturing beyond the affluent area of New Jersey where he was raised. It suggested that he toned down articles in Forber magazine

critical of friends and advertisers, and cited profligacy during his one government job as head of Radio Free Europe. It disclosed that he saves \$900,000 (£596,000) a year on property taxes on his 520-acre

birthday then quietly settled her age discrimination claim before launching his presiden-tial candidacy. The New York New Jersey estate by breeding Times reported that Mr cattle so the land qualifies for Forbes was loaning, not givthe state's farmland preservaing, his campaign millions of tion programme. Newsweek dollars, which meant that he reported that in 1991 Mr could recoup some or all of his

Forbes dismissed his longinvestment if public fundraising took off. serving personal secretary

three weeks before her 65th Sooner or later Mr Forbes's refusal to release his income tax returns is bound to become a significant issue. His father was a master of legal tax avoidance, and his opponents believe a revelation of similiar practices by this immensely wealthy candidate could seriously damage his campaign.

Internet betrays virtual affair

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MAN claims to have been cuckolded via the Internet and is seeking a divorce, citing his wife's computer line af-

Diane Goydan sent increasingly affectionate e-mail messages from her New Jersey home to a correspondent who signed himself "The Weasel".

He, sitting at his computer keyboard in North Carolina, responded eagerly. Although they had not met, they arranged a romantic assignation in the honeymoon suite of a New Hampshire hotel. It was to have been held vesterday, but John Goydan's di-vorce suit cooled their ardour.

In an unprecedented action. he claims his wife and her admirer, Ray, "got it on" during computerised discus-sions. Ray, believed to be married, tended to conclude his messages with hugs and kisses symbols.

Mr Goydan discovered their tryst when he returned early from work one day, to the surprise of his wife. She hurriedly switched off the computer, tearing paper from

the printer.

Mr Goydan used his technical superiority to call up his wife's old e-mail on screen -and was appalled. He asked her to stop the electronic liaison, but in vain.

In November she messaged The Weasel saying she wished they were in bed together "in flannel nightshirts" and able to make love. She said she did not love her husband and, because of his vigilance, they needed to be careful, "I want so badly to be with you that I am willing to chance it."

Once the meeting was arranged, she wrote: "Do you consider our relationship an affair? "I'm not so sure it hits me as such, since we haven't actually laid a finger on each other ... But I guess it'll be a different story in a couple of

intrigued legal commenta-tors said the case may indicate whether spouses have a right

to see one another's e-mail. For computer companies. meanwhile, there was the less cerebral satisfaction that this much-discussed example of "cybersex" may help to polish the internet's nerdish image.

America accused of aiding arms shipments to Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

OVER the past three years, Saudi Arabia is reported to have funded a \$300 million (E200 million) covert operation to channel weapons to the Muslim-led Government in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the implicit co-operation of the

in direct contravention of a guaranteed to enforce, a senior Saudi official has said his country shipped arms to the. Bosnian state both through Cenatia and on hourd secret. night flights to the northern. city of Tuzia.

Deliveries of arms from the Middle East, particularly Iran, were long known about in intelligence circles. At the height of the conflict both Britain and France felt America may have smoothed the way for a series of mysterious aircraft spotted by UN peace-keepers landing at Tuzia. An Iranian 747 loaded with weap-

ons was discovered at Zagreb airport in 1994, and shipments through Croatian hands were routine, with their forces taking a share. But the Administration has always suggested Turkey may have been re-sponsible in helping deliveries across its airspace.

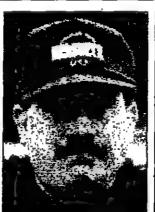
. is. Washington: this week United Nations arms ember- Lord Owen, the former European Union negotiator in the Bosnian: conflict/ said he believed America had been involved in a covert arms programme but said he could

> For the first time last year, it was suggested America may have given its tack approval to the Iranian deliveries, a matter sprenoously denied by a White House which suggested again yesterday it was both "preposterous and insulting to say that Washington had done anything more than turn a blind eye. Nevertheless, a senior White House official made little attempt at denial

later. There has always been the sense that the President was sensitive to the plight of the Bosnians," he said. The new revelations of Sau-

involvement, suggesting that the United States played a much greater role than was previously imagined, purport to show that stealthy cooperation began under President Bush and then blossomed -under President Clinton. This may compromise American arguments for the current arming and trainbefore the current Nato mission to Bosnia expires. Saudi Arabia began its efforts to fund the Muslim cause in Bosnia to counteract exploitation of the issue by more

radical states such as Iran. America has already asked Saudi Arabia and a number of other moderate Islamic countries to contribute to a new programme to train and equip the Bosnian armed forces.



Volino: a car accident

Leg pain **hampers** run-up to \$1m kick

By QUENTIN LETTS

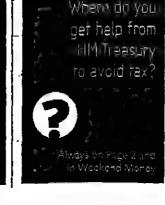
THE ODDS on Michael Voling winning \$1 million lengthened yesterday with the New Yorker's disclosure that his kicking leg was badly injured in a car accident last

Police Sergeant Volino will take the million if he succeeds with a single place kick dur-ing half time at a football match in Hawaii tomorrow. He won the chance in a lucky draw conducted by Hershey's

His right leg has not recovered fully from the accident, and after a kicking practice session, the non-sporty Sergeant Volino said: "It hurts like crazy." Earlier, he was given coaching tips by James Elam, one of the best place kickers in American football "Look for the sweet spot," said Mr Elam, a remark which pleased the Hershey publi-

Amid the worry over his right leg, there came good news from Sergeant Volino's employer, the New York Police Department. By flying to Hawaii, he feared he had missed a rarely-held police promotion exam for which he has been studying a year. The exam was last held eight years ago, and Sergeant Volino wrestled hard with his conscience before accepting the chance to win \$1 million (£666,000). Happily, the commission has now decided to let him sit the test later.

"I told my mother to express mail my study guides." said Sergeant Volino, 35. "I'm going to be reading and studying the entire plane ride home." Unless, by then, he is a millionaire.



Congress orders TV clean-up

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN parents may tions Bill is expected to be soon filter all undestrable violence and sex from their children's television screens in the wake of a landmark Bill passed by Congress which will transform the communications industry.

Broadcasters welcomed provisions in the legislation deregulating their industry. However, they had one bitter pill to swallow: new television sets with 13-inch screens or larger will have to carry the so-called V-chip allowing parents to block unpalatable viewing. The Telecommunica-

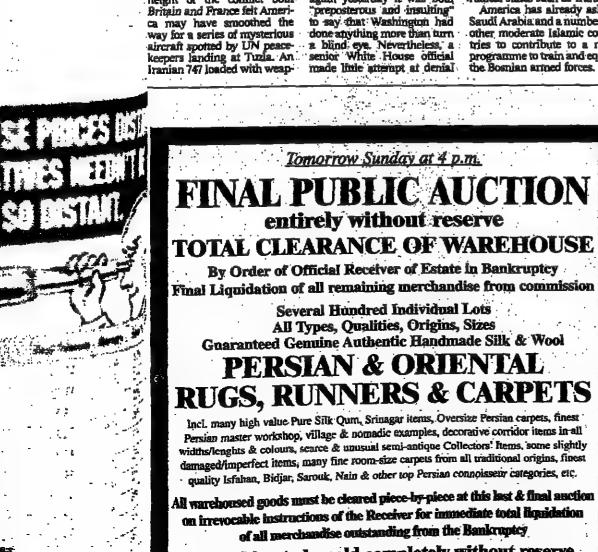
approved by President Clinton within a week. Executives at the largest networks said they were pleased with the wide scope of the Bill but, with civil liberties groups, said they were likely

to oppose the V-chip in court on First Amendment grounds. Civil liberties groups also vowed an immediate court battle over provisions that would block the transmission of smut over the internet. Those who knowingly transmit electronic information deemed "indecent to minors"

much as \$250,000 (about £170,000) and up to two years in iail. Congress also supported efforts to design a similar chip to prevent the availability to children of objectionable material on the computer

would be liable to fines of as

The main substance of the Bill loosens the limits on the number of television and radio stations owned by a single company and effectively promotes rivalry between local and long distance carriers as well as cable television



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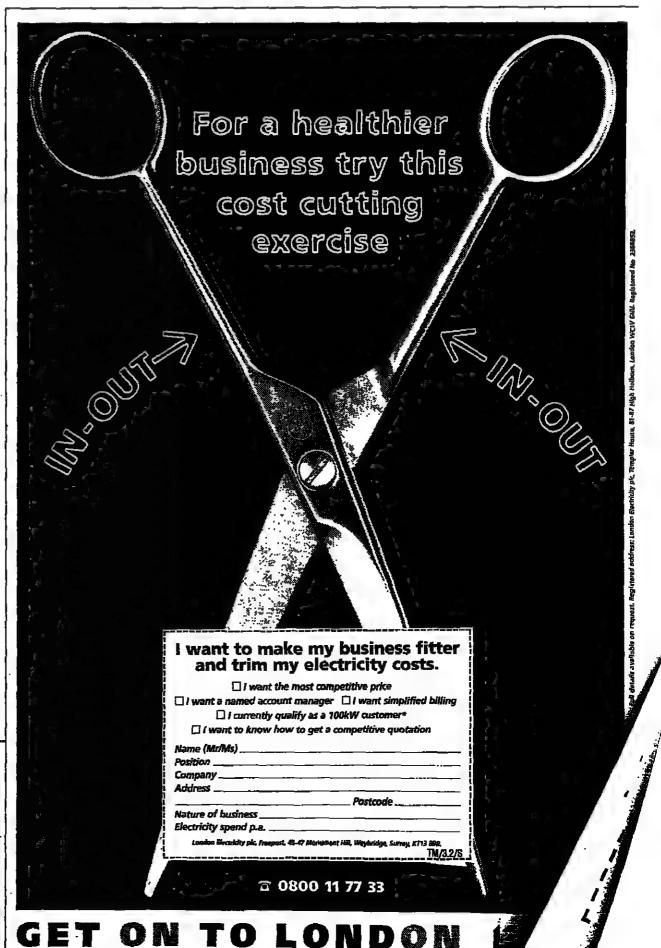
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Mitterrand's 'other family' threatens to sue over pictures

THE late François Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter and her mother have threatened legal action against news agencies that continue to distribute photographs of their attending the funeral of the

At his funeral on January II Anne Pingeot, Mitterrand's long-time mistress, and his daughter Mazarine were seen for the first time in public alongside the former President's wife and sons. Their appearance provoked intense debate in France and photographs of the mother and daughter were published

Reuters news agency in London yesterday sent out a bulletin saying it had been advised by Mme Pingeot and her daughter that "they will oppose by any legal means publication of pictures of them in press reports, books or any other support [media] unless expressly authorised by

The agency instructed subscribers to withdraw from their files five photographs taken on the day of the funeral.

A similar warning was sent by the Pingeots to other news and photograph agencies as well as several French newspapers and magazines.

The move to prevent further distribution of the pictures, a belated and probably futile attempt by Mitterrand's "other family to preserve what little remains of their anonymity, is one of a series of privacy issues that have arisen since the death of the former Social-

The French Medical Association said last night that it would begin disciplinary action against Dr Claude Gubler, Mitterrand's private doctor, in connection with a book he published claiming

lied for more than a decade to cover up the fact that he had prostate cancer, the illness that eventually killed him.

Mitterrand's family have filed a separate law suit alleging infringement of privacy after Paris-Match published photographs of the former President on his death-bed.

The photographer in that case has not yet been identi-fied, but Paris police have narrowed their investigations to five people out of the 400 family members, friends, colleagues, political dignitaries and other notables who came to pay their respects before the body of Mitterrand in the two days after his death on January 8.

Under French privacy laws, which are notoriously hard to enforce, any individual must give his or her permission before their photograph can be published.

However, lawyers last night expressed doubts over wheth-er Mazarine and her mother

Death-bed photo puzzle

TRYING to guess who took the death-bed photographs of François Mitterrand has become the latest parlourgame in Paris. As the satirical weekly Le Canará Enchainé quipped, two of Mitterrand's amociates can be rejected as possible sus-pects. One is Jacques Attali, Mitterrand's long-time adviser, who was allegedly denied entry to the building because his memoirs had annoyed the former President. The other is Jack Laug, the publicity-loving former Culture Minister because, "if it had been him, he would have been in the

could legally prevent the dis-tribution of photographs taken at a public event.
Gilles Dreyfus, an expert in

French privacy law, said that if Mazarine and her mother had been pictured attending an event where they knew photographers would be present, they could not legally prevent publication.

The existence of the former President's mistress and daughter has been common knowledge in French political and media circles for years. but it was not until 1994, when Paris-Match broke the story, that they were brought to

Mitterrand later agreed to be photographed with his illegitimate daughter and left specific instructions that she and her mother were to attend his funeral alongside his offi-

The Gubler case has also rekindled debate over French privacy laws and medical ethics. In Le Grand Secret Dr. Gubler said Mitterrand was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1981, but that he had been forced to keep the illness secret for 11 years.

Published less than a week after Mitterrand's death, the book was banned, at the request of the former President's family, on the grounds that it violated personal privacy and medical secrecy.

About 40,000 copies had

been sold and the book was also made available on the Internet. Last week excerpts chegan appearing in a newspaper on the French Pacific island of Tahiti. Dr Gubler has already asked to be removed from the

French medical register, but in a largely symbolic move the national medical association has begun proceedings that could lead to his being formally berred from practising in



Pavarotti rehearsing his role as Rodolfo in La Bohème, performed this week to mark the 100th anniversary of the opera's premiere in Turin

Pavarotti lament for La Fenice transfixes Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIANS yesterday turned with some relief from their country's troubled politics to the more relaxing turmoil and drama of the opera. As Antonio Maccanico wa

appointed to lead Italy's 55th post-war Government, a 100th anniversary performance of Puccini's La Bohime in Turin captured the imagination of the nation, with a bravura performance from Luciano Pavarotti. The tenor gave added poignancy to the per-formance by dedicating it to the memory of the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, which burnt down on Monday night.
For many Italians, opera,

like football, is not a matter of . life or death: it is more important than that. The fire at La Fenice has seared itself into the national consciouswith outpourings of grief dominating the media. What had been intended as a celebration of Italian opera in Turin became also a cathartic display of mourning for the lost 18th-century "Jewel of

The Turin performance on Thursday night was held at the Reglo Theatre, where Puccini's masterpiece was given its premiere in February 1896, conducted by Toscanini. Many in the audience wept openly when Pavarotti and his co-star, the soprano Mirella Freni, announced the performance was "dedicated to the whole opera world, which has been dealt such a blow by the tragedy in Ven-ice". The singing was so emotionally charged that there were repeated curtain calls, ending in a 15-minute standing ovation for the sing-ers and for Daniel Oren, the

Almost the entire nation apared to be watching on television Puccint's saga of life and death among artists and writers in a Parisian garret, transitized by Pavarotti as the starving young writer, Rodolfo, and Freni as the consumptive seamstress, Mimi. The fact that Pavarotti looks neither young nor starying was irrelevant, as were the implausibilities of Henri Murger's plot. This was a great performer on his home ground, superpowered by the poignancy of the demise of La

"It was a party we prepared with joy, but the fire in Venice took away a large piece of our heart," said Elda Tessore, the Regio's administrator.

Fenice as well as Mimi.

Pavarotti said this week that he would sing in St Mark's Square, Venice, to raise funds for rebuilding. Yesterday the Spanish tenor Placido Domingo promised to join him.

Professor Gluseppe Pavanello, an art historian and the author of a study of La Fenice. said there was no reason why the it should not be restored. But there were reports yesterday that some outside walls are in danger of collapse. Paris: The United Nations cultural organisation, Unes co, launched an international appeal for funds to help rebuild La Fenice (Reuter)

> Rodney Milnes, page 17 Letters, page 21

British Council faces £21.5m cuts

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LESS than a year after Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, hailed the British Council as one of the most effective instruments of British influence in the world, the STAIT OF 1,200, may Government has ordered cuts made redundant. in the council's budget that mean it may have to close its

activities in 20 countries. The council has been ordered to reduce its spending by £21.5 million over the next three years. This is a cut of 17 per cent, which is far higher than that imposed on the Foreign Office, its principal sponsor. Without any capital programme, and unable to boost its income further from sponsorship or other activities, up to 500 people, from a

The British Council, which spearheads the teaching of English abroad and arranges academic and cultural exchanges, is represented in 109 countries. If it cannot save enough money by drastic economies in Britain, including the contraction of its offices around the country and

Manchester headquarters, it will have to trim its overseas network. These have been established gradually and often in dillicult circumstance: in countries with little other

contact with Britain. Africa would suffer the harshest cuts. Some countries where English is becoming a strong competitor to French. such as Algeria and Senegal, may see an immediate halt to the council's work. In countries such as Namibia. Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

the possible closure of its the council would be forced to leave after having survived civil war and hardships that have driven out other Western aid programmes.

Latin America Would also

be hard hit. President Zedillo Mexico, who said during his visit to Britain this week that he had learnt English from the British Council, is leading a drive to orient his country towards Britain and Europe and less towards When the Government host-

ed its conference last March on Britain's place in the world. John Major and Mr Hurd paid lavish tribute to the influence of the British Council and the BBC World Service in winning hearts and minds around the world. This victory, they agreed, was often translated into cash when those influenced by British culture bought British goods. Sir Martin Jacomb, the council's chairman, has asked

Ex-deputies strip Duma offices

Moscow: Many deputies in the Russian state Duma who lost their seats in December's the blow by taking their offices with them, a partia-

Two-thirds of the 450 depu ties were not re-elected and, according to Oleg Kushakov, an official responsible for members' material privileges, 93 personal organisers (valued at £1.655 cach), 47 personal computers and a host of fax machines are unaccounted for. Some deputies say they are holding on to their computers because they contain valuable data,

according to Mr Kushakov. Deputies passed a resolu-tion just before the end of the last parliament that extended their tenure in their flats and free healthcare until July 1 ons on retirement.

Moscow vows to pay £140m owed to striking miners

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

many of whom have not been paid for up to six months, have been told the Government's outstanding debts to them will be met next week.

On his fourth day as First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, Vladi-mir Kadannikov, the former car plant chief, met miners' leaders and offered terms to

resolve the two-day strike. Vitali Budko, leader of the largest mining union, said he believed Mr Kadannikov was sincere, "One can sense that Vladimir Kadannikov is an industrialist and although he is not familiar with the problems of the coal sector, he will try to get to the bottom of them," he said. However, he added that the minister's pro-

his men. The miners are owed about

STRIKING miners in Russia. offered only 600 billion rou- effects on the economy. "Even bles (£84 million) towards a one-hour stoppage of all the

their wage arrears. The state-run coal organisation. Rosugol, said six more pits joined the strike yesterday, bringing to 124 the number taking part. Some have declared they are only striking

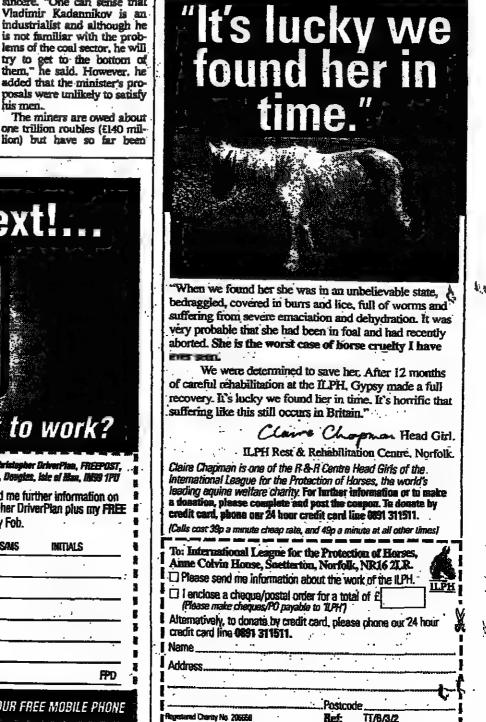
The Energy Minister, Yuri Shafranik, told perliament vesterday that even a short strike would have crippling

cost and electrical sectors would inevitably lead to a

catastrophe," he said. Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of parliament's budget committee, suspected Rosugol was encouraging the strike to embarrass the Goverriment into potting pressure on the railways and the energy sector to pay their debts to the







Pleasure industry booms in China's new power-house

hai for a friendly visit on board the USS Fort McHenry will find a very different city from the one seen during the last American port call there in 1989, just before the Tiananmen crackdown.

Shanghai was still an austere place then, largely untouched by the economic reforms that had transformed cities in southern China. But since the reforms took off in 1992, Shanghai has become a burgeoning power-house, not only of industry but also of bars, nightclubs, dancehalls, discos and karaoke bars, ali with their array of smiling

The last visit to Shanghai by US Navy ship was just a day before Li Peng, the Prime Minister, declared martial law in Peking at the height of pro-democracy demonstra-tions. These protests were

4, 1989.
In the picturesque tree-lined former French

6 Predictably, Shanghai, which in pre-war days was revival of the the site of many sex industry maisons de plaisir, a forhas led to the eign envoy and scourge of startled recently in their dip-Aids 9 ence to hear the

sirens, followed by girlish screams just down the road. "It turned out that a nearby cafe where I had often thought of dropping in for a coffee had been fronting as a brothel," the diplomat said. "The police carted off about 22 girls for 're-

The world's oldest profession has returned to Shanghai where, in its heyday in the 10 1) 11 f 1920s and 1930s, white Russian girls entertained American sailors and Seasorth

James Pringle, in the third of his reports from Shanghai, looks at the return of the world's oldest profession to a once austere city

turned into a warehouse,

while staff were sent off to

lure mainly transient

labourers or poorer tourists,

still more than a little bizarre.

unite our efforts to have a

great time," encourages a girl in socialist solidarity style,

wearing a gaudy party dress as a rock band swings into

days, when coolies or rick-shaw drivers died unnoticed

on Shanghai streets, everyone

gets a slice of the action now.

Unlike the bad old prewar

action — at only l0am.

iabour in the countryside.

Highlanders, and Chinese could seek out the thrills of the Great World, a six-storey pleasure palace where, at each level, the sing-song girls wore their cheongsams slit a little higher, until on the top floor

they were cut to the waist. Predictably, the revival of the sex industry here has led to a rise in venereal disease, and the menace of a scourge that did not exist in the freewheeling 1930s - Aids. A total of 82 HIV cases have been detected in the city, with one

blame the problem on the breakdown of family values, pornography and a get-richquick mentality, and they say that child prostitutes, such as

found before the war in opium dens and also made a comeback. Russian girls Communists took power in 1949, were were billed as the

'sweetest. cleanest girls in the world", are also back after the collapse of Soviet communism, with Ukrainians thrown in for good measure. Some of these large, blonde girls — favoured by gangsters and businessmen - do the nearest thing to while others offer love for sale.

Even the Great World has opened again as an entertainment centre, having been closed by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution and



A nurse treats a child injured in the dynamite blast in Shaoyang, central China

Over 100 killed as illegal dynamite hoard explodes

MORE than 100 people died when illegally stored dynamite exploded, destroying a block of flats and devastating the area around it in the Chinese city of Shaoyang. Another 400 people were

"At first we thought it was an earthquake," said a rescue co-ordinator in the central-southern province of Hunan.

A local relevision executive said the entire street had been levelled. A brief film report on central TV last night showed hundreds of soldiers, police and volunteers searching through the rubble. All that remained of the five-storey flat official Hunan Daily reported. Windows were shattered and injuries were reported more than a mile from the blast.

The official death toll stood at 77 but was certain to rise above 100 as soldiers extracted bodies from the rubble of several collapsed buildings, the rescue official said. "Workmore bodies. The death toll will rise above 100," he added. The cause of the blast, the Hunan newspaper reported. was ten tonnes of military dynamite which a resident of the block of flats had stored in the basement, where he ran an illegal explosives firm. City officials declined to comment on a report that police suspected the dynamite was detonated intentionally in an act of

Two survivors were extract ed on Thursday, almost a day after the blast. "Most of our patients were either crushed or struck by flying masonry," a doctor in a Shaoyang hospiual said.

revenge. The resident was

believed to be among those

Officials said the dynamite merchant had received a consignment of explosives in lieu of money from a debtor and stored them in the basement. It is not uncommon for private mining families in China to store explosives and detonators in their homes, and similar accidents have hav-

Rushdie challenges 'ban'

Delhi: Salman Rushdie is there was no legal justificaasking the Indian Supreme tion for taking such a step. Court to overrule what he They should formally ban his latest novel. The Moor's Last Sigh (Christopher Thomis writes). The Government's principal objection appears to be that a dog in the book is named after Jawaharial Nehru, independent India's first

Prime Minister. Indian Customs authorities, without making any public announcement, ruled that he book should not be allowed into the country. Mr Rushdie's Indian lawyer, Tijay Shankardass, said that

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an unofficial ban on - the book and justify that ban, or they should

> About 5,000 copies of the local publisher, Rupa & Co, before the Customs Department ordered it to halt distribution. Rupa had already decided not to sell it in Maharashtra state or its capital, Bombay, because it con-tams implied insults to Bal Thackeray, leader of Shiv Sena, an extremist Hindu

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Mercantile millionaires from Moscow home in on fashionable Swiss ski resort

chalet owners, are willing to sample the apres-ski. But

somehow their partying lacks

the vigour and noise of the Russian millionaires. The men may look like lorry drivers and talk like grocers

but a Russian, even one who

has made his fortune selling

burglar alarms, knows how to

celebrate. The local super-

market has four varieties of

Of course, the traditional let

setters knock back their share

of Beluga and champagne,

the old parties continue in their desultory way, but it is

impossible to escape the con-

clusion the Russian million-

aires are having a better time

of it. Their mono-lingual

bodyguards may be a mui-

sance, and the wads of cash

may be a trifle vulgar, but they have understood a basic

truth: there is no such thing as

Spending time on the slopes

high street has sold out of Pravda but he can offer, with an apologetic shrug, a copy of Argumenty i Fakty. By llam even this Russian tabloid has been snapped up. The Russian nouveaux riches have been hitting the slopes of Switzerland and, much to the relief of depressed boutique owners, have become the most energetic off-piste pur-

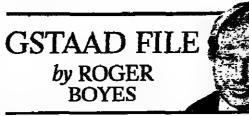
The Russian children are being pampered at Swiss private schools: the mothers glitter in Versace togs at teatime in front of the crackling fire in the Palace Hotel. The fathers, called Igor or Boris, mutter into their mobile phones as they steer the rented four wheel drive from Gstaad to rented chalets in Château d'Oex.

Throughout fashionable Europe - on French and Sardinian beaches, in plush salons and clubs - there are spending Russians. But in village. Gstaad society com-

A SWISS kindergarten teacher from the Aargau region is causing a stir with a new

study of the physiognomy and character of her five-year-old pupils.

This vaguely sinister study — with echoes of Nazi racial theories — is catching on in



Gstaad there is nothing but ists of Moscow. There has been no fresh snowfall for weeks and the skiers are getting bored. Moreover, it is a poor time of year for celebrities: the more seriously minded move to St. Moritz to gain easier helicopter access to the World Economic Fo-

rum at Davos. Stripped of the glamour of the 1970s - Elizabeth Taylor brawling with Richard Burton, David Niven on the slopes, or the Aga Khan in the cellar pub at the Olden -Gstaad in winter is something of a backwater, a pretty,

prises of chalet owners, their house guests and the residents of the Palace Hotel which towers over the village, half Walt Disney, half Franz

The actor Roger Moore has owned Le Fenil for 18 years and is a kind of doyen. The fabulously rich Flicks naturally have the most expensively decorated chalet, the Acquilotto. Elizabeth Taylor has a chalet close to that of Valentino, the fashion designer, where Joan Collins is

staying for the season.

Nightlife centres on the house guests. Hollywood power brokers duck in and out of the Moore chalet and,

ears is identified as having a "strong desire to

change his external environment", while a five-

year-old girl with a pointed chin is said to have

a "rehellious streak". Jaw structure, the length of faces and the size of eyes and mouths are

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of an earlier, pre-Revolutionary time: "It is an amazing thing, the exclusive feel of security in which all of the tenants of the highest and middle storeys of the social 'Big ears' child study causes flap edifice were living when the Revolution broke out."

The Russians, having lived through the break-up of an empire rather than just a Hollywood marriage, know better than to trust in the social edifices of millionaires' Switzerland. So, with verve, they spend, spend, spend. Perhaps next week the snow



Roger Moore, right, strolls through the resort of Gstaad with his guest, fellow actor Michael Caine

'Killer' dog trade worries officials

BIG, humbering mountain dogs are naturally enough the fashionable pet in the Swiss mountain resorts. But there is a real concern in the Swiss Kennel Club about the increasing number of dogs being smuggled into the Al-pine republic from Eastern

Europe.

Dealers from Poland, the Czech Republic, Słovakia and Ukraine have been bringing in pedigree Golden Retrievers and Boxer puppies for sale — at half normal Western prices — to unscrupulous Swiss breeders. The influx of animals has messed up the blood lines of the local dogs a

However, the chief worry is that Eastern European breed-ers are rearing killer dogs for sale to nervous Swiss property owners. Some — such as the caucasian Ovetscharka, the classic Soviet military guard dog — are trained to savage intruders.

Staffordshire bull terriers, which have been brought up in Czech "animal factories" where they are made particusurply aggressive, are being snapped up, so to speak, as the favourite pet of Zurich pimps. Dog fights are illegal, but apparently are back in

mous work by Mitterrand. The late Socialist President

and his friend Elie Wiesel

recentily collaborated on Mam

oirs in Two Voices, another

bestseller published by Mme

Mitterrand was working on

his last book, a series of

interviews and autobiographi-

cal notes, up until his death

Shin Bet hits cash scandal

Jerusalem: Four senior offi cers from Shin Bet, Israel's security service, have been forced to resign after they were accused of misusing funds to be paid to Palestinian informers in the occupied West Bank

(Christopher Walker writes). The resignations follow the departure of the head of the organisation, Karmi Gillon, and other top figures blamed for the gross security lapses that led to the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, by a Jewish extremist last November.

Simpson juror reveals all

Los Angeles: Tracy Hampton, who was excused from O. J. Simpson's jury halfway through his murder trial, has revealed both her body and her bewilderment at his acquittal of the murder of his former wife and a friend (Giles Whittell writes). Miss Hampton, who left after com-plaining about the stress of the long trial, is interviewed and appears naked in Playboy

Peking snubbed over Nobel prize

Hong Kong Norway has spurned Pekings insistence that the Nobel Peace Prize must not be awarded to the "condemned criminal" Wei Singsheng, the Chinese diss-ident Docathan Mirsky writes). In Oslo, Geir Lundestad said: "We are not going to enter into an argument. We are well aware of the Chinese opinion ... We will begin our selection work at the end of this month."

Ciller coalition attempt fails

Ankara: Turkey's conserva-tive parties falled to form a coalition after an offer by Tansu Ciller, the caretake Prime Minister, was rejected by her rival, Mesut Yilmaz. She had proposed they should share leadership of a coalition and alternate as prime minister. (Reuter)



Jacob, dubbed "the woman who collects brains"

Literary 'Amazon' brings intellectuals to book

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ODILE JACOB, known as "the Amazon of French pubtenth anniversary of her publishing house and one of the

more unlikely success stories

in French literature. On February 3, 1986, at the age of 32, Mme Jacob launched her publishing project with just three obsuresounding science books. Ten years and 500 titles later, she is one of France's most power-

The list of Mme Jacob's authors include such names as François Mitterrand, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jacques Delors, Colin Powell and Shimon

Peres. For a decade now, barely a week has passed without one of her books appearing in the bestseller

In publishing circles, Mme Jacob is also nicknamed "the blond tornado" and "the woman who collects brains", a reference to the rich intellectual nature of the fare she offers.

At a time when, simply to survive, many French publishers have headed down-market, Mme Jacob has done the reverse in a successful crusade to bring intellectual and particularly scientific subjects to a wider readership. Analysts of the publishing industry say

that Mme Jacob's phenomenal success in attracting some of the most formidable intellects in France has nothing to do with the fact that she looks like Candice Bergen, and everything to do with ber rigorous, and old-fashioned approach to publishing.

Mme Jacob, who is married to a civil servant and former diplomat, is the product of one of France's foremost intellectual families: her father, Francois Jacob, won the Nobel Prize for Medicine, while ber mother is a virtuoso pianist.

One brother is a philosopher, another a mathematician and a third a researcher. Sundays at "chez Jacob", she branched out into medicine, were given over to intellectual health, art and politics. Her latest coup is a postbu-

She studied philosophy and linguistics in France and at Harvard, and even toyed with a ballet career before striking out on her own in the notoriously cut-throat world of French publishing.

"Sciences and the human sciences are the key," she says, describing her publishing house as, "an attempt to signpost the great areas of thought and reconcile intellectual endeavour with commercial

Since publishing her first

from carteer last month at the Mme Jacob will say only that the book will be published in the "near future".

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THE SUNDAY TIMES



Confessions of a sixth-former, aged 33

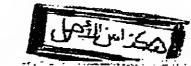
The happiest days of your life? David Mills, married, father of two, senior journalist, went back to his old school posing as a pupil to find out what sixth-form life is really like these days. Would they spot him as an imposter? Or would he, like 'Brandon Lee', the man who famously fooled a Scottish school, get away with it it?

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MIS

OPINION

Looking for a different sort of career move? How about writing a soap opera for Romania?



OPERA

Many happy returns, or perhaps not: a 100th birthday staging of Bohème THE



MUSIC

Veterans in vintage form: the Borodin String Quartet wins acclaim at the Wigmore



ON MONDAY

Paul and I: distinguished artists talk about what Cézanne's art means to them

The British and the Americans are the greatest showbiz nations on Earth. That's what they think in New York, too ... except that they leave out the bit about the British. What they can't ignore, however, is the unstoppable march of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. Last Monday, Cats became the longest-running musical ever on Broadway or in the West End. Confronted with this unarguable evidence of British superiority - at least when it comes to dressing up in furry overalls and crooning the less intractable poems of T.S. Eliot —

a word of grudging admiration.

Not a bit of it. Variety, the American trade magazine, churiishly points out that although Cats has clocked up more performances than A Chorus Line, the American show "has still grossed more at the box office", since it has apparently played in larger theatres. This is fighting talk. Soon, no eternity" show at the Barbican.

even the most chauvinistic of

American showbiz scribes might

have offered our tunesome knight

No point in getting catty, darling hits into Boston Harbour. Happily, revenge is at hand. This week, the Americans obligingly shipped to London one of the ghastliest musicals ever to reach the stage. The Fields of Ambrosia begins with a cheerful chorus as a convict

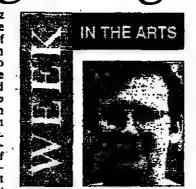
then gets really tasteless. Naturally, the British critics gleefully put the boot into our westerly cousins. "Surely some-thing can be done to discourage the dumping of American theatrical refuse in attractive London theatres," giggled Nicholas de Jongh in the Evening Standard. Unfortunately, London-based American journalists have already filed their retaliation. Yes, they have reviewed Les Enfants du Paradis, the RSC's "from here to

frizzles on an electric chair ... and

emptying chests of Lloyd Webber - war has turned really dirty. The Americans have unleashed one of their deadliest weapons — an album of Burt Bacharach hits — to infiltrate our charts and debilitate our tecnagers. We thought we had seen the last of Raindrops keep falling on my head a generation ago; now, it seems, we must fight the Bante of Baihos all over again.

And we shall. A British producer plans a £10 million staging of Sir Cliff Richard's youthful magnum opus, Summer Holiday. It must be dispatched to Broadway immediately. The American sur-render will follow within days.

A t least a month has passed since we last played the Wackiest Job Title in Britain game. I knew it was due for revival as soon as that Polynesian tree snail hit the front pages this



RICHARD MORRISON

week, because the London Zoo keeper who was wheeled out to lament its demise was described as "assistant curator of lower invertebrates", "Funny, I thought that was my job," said my wife, who ebullient state primary schools. Our man in the snall world was clearly the front-runner for the

award. But then came the BBC's latest recruitment advertisement. What the soaraway Beeb most needs now, it has decided, is a "Soap Opera Consultant". As they say on EastEnders: wassat? I'll tell you. The phone rings at

4am. Soap Opera Consultant Superhero had been working late on a tricky diamond-smuggling storyline for Coronation Street, But immediately he is up, pen in hand. The voice at the other end of the line is terse, "Get to Liverpool by dawn. Brookside needs a threein-a-bed lesbian romp. I'll fax you last week's Archers script: you'll find a similar situation involving the new vicar on page 12. Then take the next plane to Sydney. There's trouble on Neighbours.

child arrives next week, but nobody can remember why."

Of course I am fantasising. As I get older, I find it helps. But in this case the truth is stranger than fiction. It turns out that the BBC is "working with Radio Romania to produce a radio soap opera to increase understanding about business and privatisation among the general population".

Gosh. As it happens, I know a little about this subject. Three years ago, I went to Bucharest at a time when the Romanian National Opera was about to be "privatised" or so I was persuasively informed by several bulky men with funny bulges in their jackets. Naturally I was curious to know how this Thatcherite conversion would be accomplished in a theatre that seemed to employ half the populace of Bucharest to entertain

a handful of tourists each night for about 2p a ticket. So I interviewed

an opera house spokeswoman.
"What does privatising the opera mean?" I asked. "More money is desperately needed," she replied. But where is this money to come from?" I persisted, in the specially tenacious voice that I reserve for bullying small women. "More realistic ticket prices? Sponsorship from Western business?

"No," she exclaimed, incredulously. "From the State!"

Clearly the word privatisation does not translate easily into Romanian. Never mind; I am sure that with a little help from the BBC's Soap Opera Consultant Superhero, Romania's newly privatised industries will soon be surging into realms of profit unknown even to British water companies. Or else the whole country will be gripped by the unfolding saga of a three-in-a-bed lesbian romp, Either way, it's another international triumph for the BBC. Lord Reith would have

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament WILLIAM DAZELEY



Age: 29 Profession: Baritone

Where can he be heard? Dazeley is playing Marcello in the centenary La Bohème at the Albert Hall. "I'm bringing out the frustration in Marcello who, while having everything in controlemotionally, knows there's something missing, is jeal-ous of Rodolfo's render love."

After Bokeme This is my Count year. Dazeley says. He will be the Count in Figure with Opera North and Glyndebourne Touring Opera, then "the same character in a different opera"

Massener's Chérubin for his Covent Garden debut. Background: At school (Rugby), contemplated being a cellist, but the hours of practice sounded grim. Read German

Why did he become an opera singer? "I've always been singing," he says. "But one day at Cambridge my singing teacher asked me if I'd thought of making it a career." Deceley recalls "giving some blast response. He should at me for half an hour about treating a talent with such indifference. It shocked me, someone carring so much about a part of me. I started working."

Close shaves: Playing Don Glovanni in Israel, Dazeley was narrowly missed by a gigantic Christ, crashing down from the flies. He has only had one stinking review, but the critic accidentally put another performer's name.

Ambitions: Longs to play Billy Budd. "More generally", he says, "I would like to work four months a year abroad where you earn five times as much - so I could choose the jobs I really want to do here. The work here is excellent. innovative, and going in the right direction, drawing out opera's drama and meaning, not just its speciacle."

On himself: "I think I'm fairly relaxed about things. I do have an explosion about once a year, which is horrendous for everyone." What else? "Quietly ambitious."

KATE BASSEFT

Too much power to the people

admire Raymond Gubbay's missionary zeal in bringing good music to the widest possible audience — and although you wouldn't think it during the last few

weeks' hype, there are one or two other organisations seeking to do the same crucially bad decisions were tak-

en in his centenary arena staging of Puccirit's opera.
For a start, why amplifica-tion? Since the Albert Hall was built, singers of all kinds have performed there perfectly audibly. Glyndebourne takes opers there without feeling the need for mikes; one of Britten's Church Parables has been staged in the round at the Proms, and worked extremely well. The game was given away when the bit-part players in the third act sang mikefree, and sounded clear as a

Then, having decided to amplify, why do so badly something that nowadays can be done really rather well? It was of a standard that no pop group would have put up with for a minute. The voices sounded clogged, woofy and

cert Orchestra seemingly randomly amplified as well, the sound-picture in the first two

acts was simply chaotic.

After the interval, someone had second thoughts and the band mikes were doused. which improved

the general balhad the unfortunate effect of La Bohème Albert Hall fact that a few more rehearsals

would not have come amiss. All of which, plus the over-spill between soloists' individual mikes, made it almost impossible to judge the quality of the voices. The Chilean tenor José Azocar, familiar from last year's Cardiff Singer of the World competition, seemed greatly inhibited, at times crooning rather than singing out, but when he did let fly his warm middle register and ringing top sounded distinctly promising. In the third act Katerina

Kudriavchenko's mike must have been on the blink, and her bright tone and agreeably swoony phrasing were heard in their own right to great advantage; earlier, she made as much as possible of Mimi's big moments through the gen-



"If this is privatised opera, include me out": La Bohème turns 100 in straitened circumstances at the Albert Hall

returned in the fourth act. It would have been a help to have had a conductor more demonstrative and engaged than James Lockhart. He made few allowances for an arena setting, concentrating on keeping his band more or less together and leaving the singers to follow him via monitors, on which his discreet beat must have been virtually invisible. Had he beaten "bigger", the music in the second act might not have

fallen apart quite so regularly. And if you are going to do arena opera, then you need a really strong, imaginative di-rector. This Boheme was hardly directed at all, save at village-hall level. A handful of extras wandering about aim-

alive by faint vibrato, held in

production, and there was little suggestion of the miseria on which the action depends in Alison Nalder's simple basic set or John Bright's handsome, inescapably bourgeois costumes. All depended, then, on the

soloists using their experience to get through the surface action. Vivian Tierney's spirited Musetta and William Dazeley's inventive Marcello deserve special praise, and Tomás Tomassón's smoothly phrased Colline sounded extremely promising.

Gubbay seems to want to challenge subsidised opera. If this is privatised opera, with spared, include me out.

RODNEY MILNES

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Nothing to prove but their genius IANUARY saw an extraordi-

nary cornucopia of string quartets in London: first the Lindsays, then the Emersons, and finally the fathers of them.

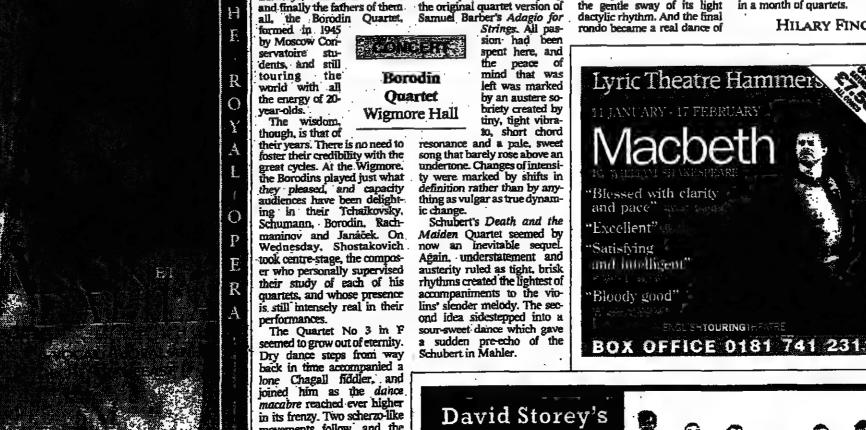
back in time accompanied movements follow, and the Borodins had the measure of them both. The first takes its tone of voice from the gruff viola's first three notes, met by a pair of tetchy violins; the second is harder, more propulsive in its loud downbows. icy chords and masked viola

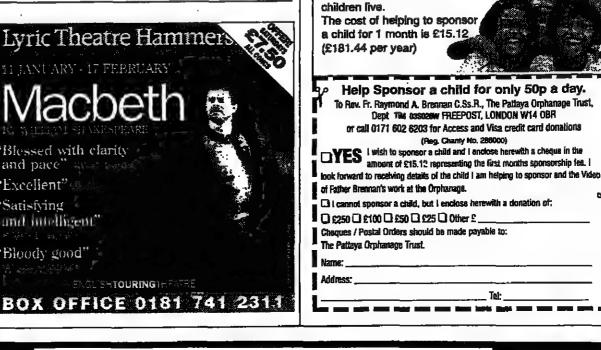
The way in which the slow movement led into the finale showed how the Borodins are masters of the art of creating an intuitively free flow of dialogue while keeping every

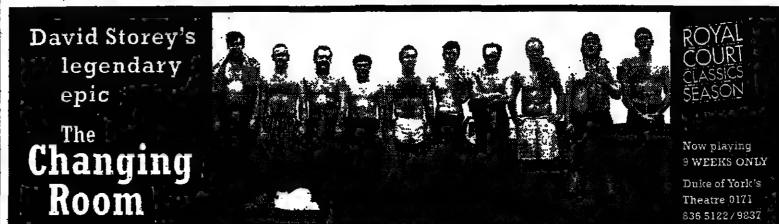
The breathing of the great central song that gives the rhythmic and structural nerve quartet its name was kept just

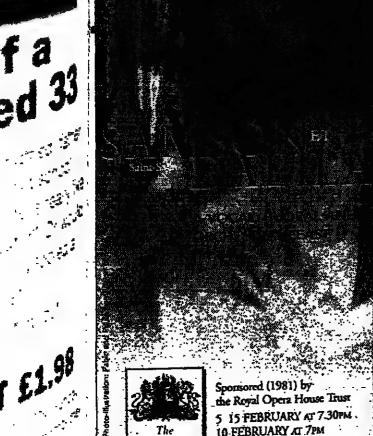
The Shostakovich was followed, quite wonderfully, by the original quartet version of without a scar or two on the way to tell one of the most gripping tales London heard in a month of quartets.

HILARY FINCH









ROYAL OFERA HOUSE



THEATRE An artist brought to life: Antony

Sher excels as

in a new play

at the National

Stanley Spencer



BASE NOTES Restoration, with Sam Neill, will be screened at the centenary of the Empire,

Leicester Square

THE

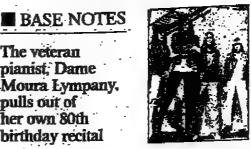


The veteran pianist; Dame Moura Lympany.

pulls out of

her own 80th

birthday recital



BASE NOTES

It's farewell to the Ramones: the punk icons are finally going their separate ways

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale enjoys Pam Gems's lively biography of Stanley Spencer

Of women and God in the corners of Cookham

looked so exotic. Tim Hatley has transformed its stage into a blend of artist's studio, tacky living room and church, with spectators in pews stretching from three sides towards an easel, an old chair, an oil stove. But it is what is painted on the theatre's walls and beneath its balconies that grabs the eye: a vast mural of bulbous labourers and roly-poly grocers, askew arms and oddly angled legs, nuts and screws, buckets and piping. It is unmistakably the work of Stanley Spencer in high Cookham mode.

Antony Sher, who then bumbles onstage, is a satisfactory replica, too. He never appears with pyjamas sticking out of an antique suit, as Spencer did. But with his baggy trousers, his messy jacket and jersey. his ill-fitting spees, his pudding-bowl haircut and his excitable manner, he certainly resembles the "small, eager man, absorbed in his own interests" whom The Times evoked in its

obituary of the painter in 1959.

All that is needed is a lively biographical play, and Pam Gems, a specialist in the genre, provides just that. True, she has her overemphatic, even plonking, moments. You are a bit too aware that Spencer's conversations first with his wife Hilda, then with the Augustus John mob, are meant to fill us in on his background THEATRE

Stanley Cottesloe

and his credo. He saw men dismembered in the war, but still emerged believing that God was to be found in Cookham's sheds and privvies, and that it was his duty to "reveal the nature of the world through love",

That done, the play becomes a worthy successor to Gems's Piaf. Camille and Queen Christina. Though she displays a sympathetic interest in Spencer the visual poet and mystic, it is his relationships with his women that preoccupies her. And it is not knee-jerk ferninism, but intelligent curiosity, which leads her that way. If she is to be believed, Spencer was married first to a woman who made Patient Griselda seem like a flibbertigibbet and then to one beside whom Goneril was a

blushing nun. When the sexually inexperienced Spencer begins to stray, Deborah Findlay's Hilda is as generous as she has always been. She puts up with neglect of their children, abandonment, insults, divorce. She is forgiving when he returns, tail between his legs, and even manages to show consideration for her rival. Only on her deathbed does she realise that Patricia. Stanley's second wife, has horribly wronged her.

So she certainly has. A failed artist herself, whose only tie is to her longsuffering lesbian lover, Patricia sees Spencer as "a dreadful little oik" who paints "vulgar and deranged pictures" but might be useful when it comes to meeting famous people or buying expensive lipstick. She proceeds to deny him her body, exclude him from everywhere but the kitchen and, in effect, steal his house while somehow regarding herself as the victim of a cruel world. The wincing preciosity Anna Chancellor brings to the task of embodying Patricia's narcissism is enjoyably awful; but you do wonder if the woman hasn't a

defence worth hearing.

However, the Spencer created by Gems and her director, John Caird, is much more than a caricature. As Sher plays him, he is both a stickyfingered infant who elevates vanity and greed into high artistic needs and a man of great sensitivity and

Eventually he sees through his own egoism and Patricia's pretensions, and is left communing with dead Hilda over his easel in common-or-garden Cookham. It is a moving end to a fine performance and to a solid, gripping play.



Antony Sher resembles the "small, eager man, absorbed in his own interests" described by *The Times* in its obituary of Spencer

BASE NOTES

film about the court of King Charles II has been chosen for the premiere of the centuy, to be held in London on March 7 in the presence of the Prince of Wales. The premiere will celebrate 100 years of cinemagoing in the venue — the Empire, Leicester Square — where cinema first went main-stream. Restoration, which stars Sam Neill as the king. also features Meg Ryan, Robert Downey Jr. Ian McKellen and Hugh

 BESIDES getting Whis-tle Down the Wind ready for its Broadway premiere next season and writing his next musical, A Star is Born, Andrew Lloyd Webber has his eye on the cinema. An animated version of Cats, is currently being worked on at Universal: now comes news that Lloyd Webber is looking to mount an animated version of Starlight Express.

Grant.

• A LONDON artist is turning his art into mud. As part of a major project titled Rudder, Max Couper will lower his 14-ton Thames tug into 100 tons of mud in Hanover's Sprengel Museum of Modern Art. The idea is that when the tug is removed, it will leave the biggest art print ever made.

FANS of Dame Moura Lympany hoping to cele-brate her 80th birthday at the South Bank this month will be disappointed. She "has been advised by her doctors to take an extended period of rest" and has cancelled her Festival Hall recital on February II. Another casualty is Rafael Orozeo, who has withdrawn from his Queen Elizabeth Hall date on March 5.

in the orchestral world has announced his retirement. Ernest Fleischmann, who made his name in Britain guiding the London Symphony Orchestra through one of its most illustrious periods, is leaving the Los Angeles Philharmonic after 28 years in charge. Fleischmann is not calling it quits altogether, though he will stay on with the LA Phil and the Hollywood Bowl as a part-time consultant until at least June 1999.

 THOSE punk icons, the Ramones, are calling it a day. Disappointed by the lukewarm reception given to their most recent but suitably titled LP Adios Amigos, the band has decided to concentrate on individual projects in future. Their performance tonight at the Brixton Academy will be

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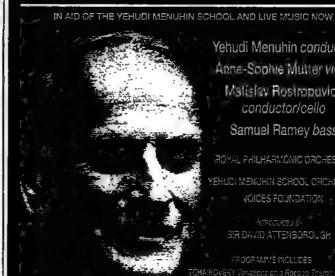
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The biggest beauty contest of them all: will Wembley or Manchester win the £100m stadium race?



It was girls' night out in Shepherds Bush as Melissa Etheridge shared her little secret

THE



Young keyboard lion Jacky Terrasson fulfils the highest expectations at the Jazz Café



RECORDS

The Bait, and other new videos and CDs, are reviewed in the Weekend section, page 8

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney reports on the race to build Britain's new national stadium

Secret outing

IF THE proclamation of her sexuality in 1993 provoked a voyeuristic interest in Melissa Etheridge, then the reality of her work must have quickly induced a cumulative sigh of

disappointment.
The Kansas-born singer. songwriter and guitarist chooses to operate in a territory some considerable way from the musical cutting edge. her often frighteningly powerful voice exists somewhere between Bryan Adams and Tina Turner, while her style lyrics full of splashy, melodramatic emotional colours, harnessed to rhythms from R'n B or muscle-flexing rock - is

Melissa Etheridge Empire W12

one rarely heard these days in the British charts.

All of which gave her an interestingly diverse constituency for this UK appearance in support of her fifth LP, Your Little Secret. The girls were out in force with repeated cries of "I love you, Melissa", but the old-style boy rockers were there too as Etheridge and her guitar sidekick John Shanks provided blistering displays of ynchonicity...

The noise and excitement levels could have easily disracted attention from the rafismanship of the songs. but more often than not Etheridge's artistry as a writer shone through. She is best as a chronicler of sexual tension and her tale of aydward adolescence, Shriners Park; proved a particular highlight.

A capacity crowd foved everything she played. Special thanks to those of you here who aren't from London :. next time I'd like to travel in the further," she said. All the widence was that she will.

ALAN JACKSON

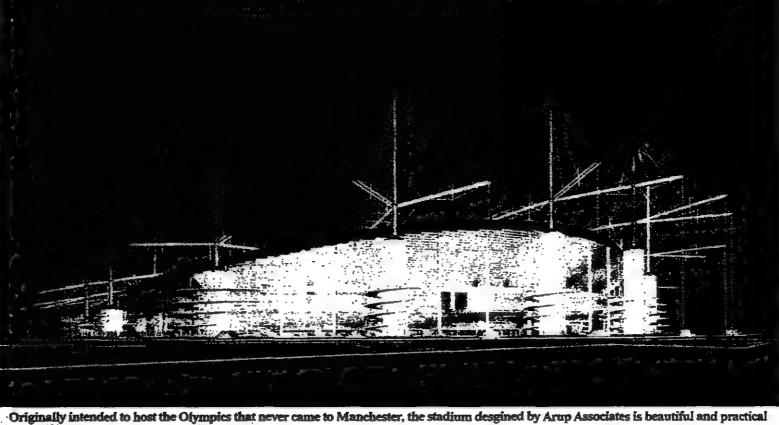
A game plan of two halves

he biggest lottery prize of all is yet to be awarded: £100 million, and possibly even more, from the Sports Council Lottery Fund for a new national stadium. In May the Sports Council will decide whether the venue will be Wembley or Manchester. Both have a forceful case to

make. Manchester seized the lead in presenting a sturning design, while Wembley is, as yet, without one. But Wernbley, although a latecomer to the contest, holds the trump card: it is in London, where larger numbers of commercial sponsors are at hand, eager to rent hospitality boxes. It also has tradition on its side for decades Wembley has been "England's stadium".

The Manchester design began as a stadium intended for the Olympics, but the architects, Arup Associates, even then envisaged uses for it other than athletics. Arup's design could prove to be the most breathtaking since the Munich Olympic Studium of 1972 Like the ancient Roman arenas, Arup's stadium is on a continuous curve. That way you have the same heightened sense of being part of the action as in a horseshoe opera house," says James Burland of Arup. "Straight rows of seats can never provide the same

The stadium is much higher at the sides than at the ends. creating a sculptural silhouette and allowing views out of the stadium at the ends. This makes sound financial sense. as the seats at the sides give a better view of the action and self better. The roof hangs from a ring of souring masts. The structure is all on top, sothere is nowhere for pigeons to perch and make a mess of the ears," Burland says. This way, the roof structure is also much easier to inspet Sports County officials have criticised the roof design, say



which already has 80,000

ing that it will not cover all the seats. "The leading edge of the roof can easily be extended," Burland retorts. "And we would do this in translucent material so that it would cast a much softer shadow on the

The corkscrew ramps ascending to the upper seats are another novel feature. A stadium can be a confusing place, so we've turned the access stairs into entrance towers which catch the eye." Burland says. Ramps have further advantages. They are safer for the disabled, better than stairs. in emergencies, and provide

views across the city. Between

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events, simall service vehicles carr use them to reach every part of the stadium. For Manchester, the real

question is whether the big sporting events now held at Wembley — the FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup finals, Eng-land football internationals and rugby league finals — would transfer wholesale from London. David Payne of the Sports Council says: "If we choose Manchester the governing sports bodies will have to commit themselves to holdevents there."

Moving from London, however, might mean losing the larger ricker revenues that the

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city commands, as well as Wembley Park Station, bringing capacity up to 50,000 people an hour. Manchester considerable dollops of business sponsorship. If it was not able to stage all the events Manchester would not viable, has little prospect of matching that ease of transportation in whereas Wembley would be the near future. happy for a proportion to be spread around the country. And what is to stop Wembley

seats, seeking to lure events away from a Manchester-London venue is chosen as the site based national stadium? A location in the capital city of the national is just one of the key points in Wembley's favour. Across the world it is known as a place where top players dream of playing. Now London Trans-

stadium. what chance is there of a design of the same calibre as Manchester's? port is investing £30 million in site is a mess with two-thirds exhibition site

> industrial estate. What's more, there is uncertainty as to who the real client would be: the Sports Council. which will pay the lion's share, or the new trust in which the stadium will be placed? The danger of design by committee looks ominous.

now a hideous

The Sports Council is insistent on an architectural com-

petition. Wembley is reluctant. A fiasco along the lines of the Cardiff opera house could be in the making. Wembley's best option is to follow the Tate Gallery at Bankside and hold an invited competition. Let the

Wembley has promised to retain the famous twin towers which date from the 1924 British Empire Exhibition. narrow them down, paying a But if the north

6 Wembley holds the trump card: it is in London 7

> needed new landscape road approach from the east and the North Circular Road. The betting is that Stormin' Norman will produce far more than layouts and plans rather, a speciacular model that will mesmerise everyone and set him ahead of the field

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world's architects apply, then

select a dozen names and

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Who would

win? My tip is

Norman Foster.

Wembley invited

Foster to prepare

a master plan for

the whole site at

gesting a much-

considered

design.

JAZZ

Jam at its best

IF THE 29-year-old planist Jacky Terrasson were to feel overwhelmed by the burden of expectation placed on him by the jazz world in the past couple of years, it would be winning the influential Thelonious Monk competition in Washington in 1993, he has received the ultimate accolade for an aspiring American musician - employment and praise from the doyenne of talent-spotters, singer Betty Carter - and his eponymous major-label debut album has received rave reviews.

Even before this trio gig began, there was a buzz of

Jacky Terrasson Jazz Café, NWI

anticipatory excitement in the air. Anything short of exhilagoing to be a disappointment. As it was, however, he matched - even exceeded his most hopeful listeners' expectations in a dazzling display of sparkling inventiveness, leading a superbly integrated rhythm section bassist Ugonna Okegwo and fellow Carter alumnus, drummer Clarence Penn — through a cleverly paced programme of standards, judiciously mixed with lively but maturesounding originals mostly taken from his forthcoming album, Reach.

The much-lauded technique was slowly revealed in Terrasson's first selection, Ron Carter's *Third Plane*. It was the subsequent hour-long relaxed jam, though - embracing a teasing but intense Donna Lee beautifully dovetailed with Fran Dance followed by Blue Monk and i Love Paris - which allowed the band to parade all the delights of top-class piano-trio

Intensely dramatic, juxtaposing dazzling exuberance with almost painfully delicate hushed fragility, Terrasson's music is at once wholly distinctive and personal, and at the same time steeped in the great jazz-piano tradition from Jelly Roll Morton to Keith Jarrett. He plays with great sensitivity, but laces his performance with subtle, unaffected humour, most importantly, he is a born improviser.

CHRIS PARKER



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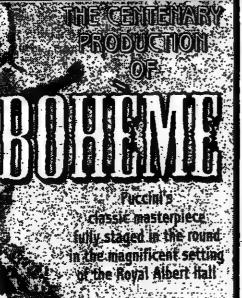
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John Redwood argues that Britain cannot ignore Republican candidate Steve Forbes's radical ideas on taxation

merica and Canada are in a spin over the flat tax. Electioneering usually concentrates the minds of politicians. It forces them closer to the wishes and views of voters. This time round the Republicans are no exception. They had to live down President Bush's broken promises on taxes. They rallied to the stronger colours of Newt Gingrich and swept to victory in the congressional elections. Could they bring off the double of winning the presidency as well as holding the Hill? Is there a candidate who can both unite them and win? Do they need and do they dare

to offer big tax cuts? The flat tax has catapulted Steve Forbes into the spotlight. The race up to that point had been a well run-in Dolemobile cruising around the circuit, with a good Republicandesigned sedan from Senator Gramm making a cautious start. Suddenly, from nowhere, there was the sound of a very fast Forbes saying that all Americans need only pay a single income tax rate of less than 20 per cent. The middle classes should be given a big break. During my recent visit to Wash-

ington to debate with Newt Gingrich. I was asked about the flat tax. Not wishing to interfere in other people's elections by positioning myself on the defining bend on the primary circuit, I explained that it was not a matter that came up in

Flat out for fiscal revolution

British debate. Few here suggest that the top rate of tax should be abolished, or the lowest rate of tax removed. To us it is more important to lower the overall burden of taxation. We want to cut taxes for everyone by controlling spending. rather than being particularly concerned to lower the income tax burden on the higher earners.

In the heyday of the Reagan-Thatcher tax-cutting policies, people recognised that cutting tax rates could boost tax revenues. If that was so in the 1980s, could it prove the same again? If we cut our income tax rates further, would more people pay more tax? In the 1980s, cutting the top rate of tax in the UK from 98 per cent to 40 per cent made a big difference. More rich people stayed in Britain. More rich people reinvested and created more income, fewer spent money on smart tax lawyers to arrange their affairs to avoid tax. The tax take from the rich rose as a proportion of the total, and the total grew as the rates came down.

If you move from a confiscatory rate of 100 per cent or 98 per cent. you would expect this to happen. Few rich people are going to stay around without good tax lawyers if almost all they earn is taken away. Clearly there is also a point at which cutting rates ceases to raise more revenue. A tax rate of zero percent would not fill the Treasury coffers. What is the best level?

International competition has an influence on all this. If America and Canada do go to a flat rate of 17 or 18 per cent, they will be much more attractive than we are for footloose investors, fancy-free companies and rich individuals looking for a summer palace or an investment haven. The Americans would lower the international rate of tax. We would have to follow some of the way if we were not to lose out. The American debate is also

about what incentive people now need to take care of themselves and their families without recourse to the State. The United States is alarmed by the rate of social breakdown. Middle America, finding it difficult to make ends meet in a competitive world, is saying it must have a tax break to carry on. Bill Clinton's State of the Union address showed how he too has to mirror conservative words and

deeds, as he squares up to the



Redwood: letter from America

electorate again. His speech stressed the fact that "the era of big government is over". He looked forward to balancing the budget, and launched a ferocious defence of families in which both parents accept responsibilities for their

Newt Gingrich has touched many chords and a few sensitive nerves in his remarks, none more so than in his language of American renewal. He is out to modernise the American dream on the Hill are on the side of hardworking Middle America, against the politically correct liberal establishment. It was this which swept him to success. It is this which Bill Clinton now has to copy.

More recently, Newt's revolu-

tionary language has upset some traditional conservatives. They misread his message — that a drastic technological revolution is under way. They fear a more sinister suggestion that conservatives are now radicals, that their world is turned upside down and Republicans are going to lead people to the barricades. The conservatives must distinguish clearly. Like it or not, the world is entering a new and more intensive phase of technological change. Hence there is all the more need to buttress not only timeless values but also some institutions.

. All conservative - and for that matter, all radical - parties are coalitions. For every new congressman who is egging Gingrich on to further change, there are several traditional conservatives attracted to other parts of his message, especially to his rock-solid defence

and to show that he and his allies of traditional values. The think-on the Hill are on the side of hardway may be busy drawing parallels with other revolutionary eras and forecasting massive political and constitutional upheaval. The rank and file of the Republican Party. especially in the South, are hoping that there will be ample helpings of motherhood, fatherhood and apple pie as well.

> ere in Britain, Conservatives have a more obvious I role in acting as some constitutional anchor in the violent storms now hitting the British body politic. We have to make sure that out-of-date ideas from the age of mass production, big government and the Cold War are not allowed to rule by creating a monstrous United States of Europe with a protectionist and anti-American flavour. We have to resist regional government of a kind and temper that could start the fragmentation

> of the kingdom. At the same time, we have to show we understand that the information age will change politics, giving people more direct access and influence over govern-

ment at all levels, if they want it. The passive television with the didactic news will be replaced by a multiplicity of channels and interactive TV, allowing the audience to hit back. Many people are after more content and depth than slogan and soundbite politics permits. Politics by doorstep, public meeting and the leaflet will be supplemented by the politics of the mailshot, the internet message and the phone or cable-in.

It is a fine balancing act welcoming the necessary economic change that can make us more prosperous and link us to the global market, while reassuring through the sta-bility which traditional values and cherished institutions can bring We can and should join hands across the Atlantic. The alliance has served us well. Conservatives can and must strengthen it. The investment and trade interests are great. The shared language and history will be important in the future shape of a world in which English will rule. An era of popular democracy can be enlivened by these challenges.

As Mr Blair and Mr Clinton have had to accept, people are hungry for more true pragmatic conservatism, not less. Above all, they want taxes down.

The author is MP for Wokingham and a former Welsh Secretary.

Hemsworth, PR and the lessons for new Labour

Anthony Howard

on the limits of

electoral reform

The Hemsworth by-election result has fired a shot across the bows of the campaigners for electoral reform within the Labour Party. True, Arthur Scargill's candidate for the as yet unformed Socialist Labour Party did pretty dismally. But Brenda Nixon's 1,193 votes still sound a warning that any scheme for precise proportional representation could end up causing just as many problems for Labour as its protagonists have always claimed it will do

for the Tories. The arithmetic is easy. Under the present system, if Scargill's candidates get more than 5 per cent of the vote in any constituency at the next election (as Mrs Nixon did in Hemsworth), they will save their deposits. But change the rules and, 5 per cent (as prescribed, for example, by the German electoral system), they will be entitled to representation in a PR-elected

House of Commons. Some people, of course, suspect that is what Tony Blair has wanted all along. Proportional representation might finally allow him to shed what Bill Rodgers used to call "the illegitimate left". But he would do so only at a considerable price. When President Mitterrand aftered the electoral rules in France — a change that has now been unscrambled — he did so solely in order to embarrass his enemies. He wanted to see M Le Pen's National Front eat into the support within the National Assembly of the traditional right-wing parties. The hidden lesson of Hemsworth is that in Britain, such a scheme could have precisely the opposite result.

But what of the implications for Labour? No one doubts the sincerity of those within the party who are currently campaigning for electoral reform. They are passionate, they are committed and have contrived to give the impression that they are within sight of the Holy Grail. If only their colleagues could be persuaded to see the light, then at least ten years of anti-Tory rule could be assured. Yet there remains one flaw in the Labour electoral reformers' vision. With their evan-

gelical zeal, they mistake a mechan-

ical device for an idealistic trophy. No electoral system is perfect: all are just means to an end.

The Labour Party first recognised that some 65 years ago. It is often forgotten that, in February 1931, the House of Commons actually carried the second reading of a Government Bill designed to bring reform about - only to see its will thwarted by a then wholly hereditary House of Lords. What the Commons then voted for, by a majority of 65, was the simplest of all reforms, but one that has never satisfied the PR purists.

The proposal endorsed is known as "the single alternative vote" meaning that in every constituency. voters, instead of placing an X on the ballot paper, should give their order of preference between the candidates. This (a practice that was adopted in the dozen university seats until 1950) would not in itself produce a House of Commons exactly reflecting national opinion. But it would still remove the more glaring injustices under our present "first past the post" system - whereby, for example, an MP can sit happily in the House of Commons for five years on a minority of the votes cast in his or her constituency.

7 hy, then, does Mr Blair at least as an initial, ▼ modest step towards constitutional reform - not embrace the remedy that Ramsay MacDonaid was prepared to recommend 65 years ago? The answer one is glurnly given by those close to the Labour leader is that "the Liberal Democrats will not buy it". Such intransigence at the national level is all the harder to understand, given the readiness of Liberal Democrats in Scotland to compromise with Labour on a system of proportional representation for the

proposed Scottish assembly.
The difficulty for the Labour leadership is that it is lumbered with John Smith's pledge to hold a referendum on electoral reform at some unspecified date, once it has entered into government. It may, therefore, not want to give the impression now of pre-judging the issue. But that is no reason why the Liberal Democrats should not be privately told that the single alternative vote is likely to be the only offer on the table - and that, if they want to go on baying after a political moon made of green cheese, fragmented parties and fractional minorities, then they can

do so on their own.

Ulster's real peacemakers

Despite the politicians' attempts to

impose a solution on Northern Ireland, local communities are forging new links

Northern Ireland. The Peace Process is back on course. John Major is emerging as the most daring gambler in Ireland's postwar history. He has brought about not only an IRA ceasefire but a year of sustained peace. He has induced two foreign Governments, the Irish and the American, to help to curb violence. He has kept Unionists in line through a bevy of concessions to the IRA. He now seems about to win his latest gambit, "pre-talks" elections. Those who portray John Major as a bemused acolyte wan-dering the ruins of Thatcherism should study his Uister policy. It

Yet the news is ominous, Mr Major's gamble may succeed. There are currently two peace processes running in Northern Ireland. nate in the Downing Street declaration of 1994, but they are moving in diver-

has tlair and it has class.

gent directions. One has capital letters and is the copyright of Mr Major and his Ulster Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew: it is the muchvaunted Peace Process. The other lies deep in the soil of Northern Ireland and is little noticed. I call it the process of peace.

The process of peace has been astonishing. Ulster since the ceasefire is almost as changed as Berlin since the collapse of its wall. Fortresses have been demolished, even Londonderry's awesome Rosemount tower. The obscenities of communal strife are disappearing. In response, tourism rose last year by 55 per cent. French car components. Taiwanese textiles. seven new Sainsbury stores have arrived. Inward investment and exports are surging. The healing balm of public spending has shifted

from security hardware to restoring the landscape Nor is this all. Peace also pumps through the veins of local politics. On Belfast and Londonderry district councils, former enemies are sitting down, negotiating and sharing power. They are even sharing the mayoraky. The 26 districts may cut no ice in Washington or

London, but they are the forcing house of a new Ulster democracy. Fifteen of them have Sinn Fein members. In five the nationalists have an overall majority. Since the ceasefire, politicians whose party leaders flatly refuse to discuss power-sharing at a higher level are already sharing it. They have moved on. They are the true democrats of Ulster's peace. It is the

MPs who are out of date. This "process of peace" reflects the steady redrawing of the political map. The ethnic cleansing of Ulster west of the Bann has continued. The predominantly Catholic areas, especially the Londonderry conurbation, are virtually parts of the Republic. The border with Donegal hardly exists and Londonderry, on my last visit, felt

like a Southern magh through Fermanagh to a sickle of nationalism, a cordon sanitaire between Protestant Ulster and the Irish Republic. Northern ireland is being

normalised by peace and its local democracy reflects that normalcy. This is more important than a dozen round-table conferences.

There is no reason for this process not to develop. There is no reason for nationalist and Unionist councils, perhaps after judicious amalgamation, to be denied more discretion over housing, schools, transport and industry. There is no reason why the existing links forged with the South by Londonderry and other nationalist councils. should not grow on their own. The border is now politically perme-able. Northern Ireland could be a test-bed for bottom-up democratic politics in healing the wounds of

divided societies. The grandees and groupies of Mr Major's Peace Process maintain that all this depends on them. Their way is different. One thing alone links Bill Clinton and John Major. John Bruton and John Hume, lan Paisley and Gerry Adams. This is a belief that the only way forward is along the same path that has failed for a quarter century, through a swamp of tracks and strands, of catch-phrases and constitutions. of



getting parties round the table", of talks about talks about talks. To what end? To reach something that can be declared a settlement. What is the content of that settlement? The answer is nothing but that bugbear of 1973, a provincial assembly and a power-sharing executive. Mr Major recently promised that there would be "no return to Stormont". What he meant was the old Stormont of the Protestant ascendancy. He did not mean a new Stormont, in which

harmony and concord reign. Here is the true mindset of the Peace Process, the search for some complex constitutional blocking system for a devolved assembly. It is intended to stop Protestants overruling Catholics, to pretend that a divided society can be administered without regard to the balance of forces within it.

Like new Labour, new Stormont would eventually become a version of the old. Ulster's political realities are as yet unchanged, the balance of power is the same. As Mr Hume has pointed out, any new Stormont will revive the old antagonisms, the old shouting, the old storming out. Divided regions cannot be ruled by unitary authorities. The boss of new Stormont would presumably be the Unionist leader, David Trimble. Sooner or later he would lose the consent of the nationalists.

This sort of top-down settlement is the curse of Ireland. It emerges from 20 years of colonialism, 20 years of conferences, forums and seminars, of hotels, universities, dinners and receptions. It dazzles itself by demolishing each new idea. It adores its historical repartee, the well-turned quips of a Garret FitzGerald or a Conor-Cruise O'Brien.

hen I first delved into this world, its participants were young and vigorous. They are now old and cynical. And the dance goes on, the orchestra plays. Mr Paisley still bellows. Peter Robinson still looks sinister and Mr Hume careworn. Mr Adams still reminds us of a dark night on the Falls Road. With each step in the Process, the venues get grander. Those who once stumbled down the steps of Stormorit now grace those of Dublin Castle, Downing Street and even the White House. The dance is the generals' minuet from Oh! What a Lovely War.

Any revival of a provincial as-sembly in Northern Ireland would threaten the true process of peace. It would reassert the religious divide in Ulster, rehabilitate the ranters and stifle the emerging local councils that hold the key to peaceful coexistence. That is why

the nationalist rank and file is right to oppose it. A new assembly would & give jobs, status and patronage to precisely the players whose minds are stuck in the past conflict. They should be pensioned off.

The best hope for Ulster is that Mr Major's formal Process neither collapses nor succeeds, that he can keep both Catholic and Protestant extremists at bay by constant stalling. But he must do something. Stalling is a strategy only if he invigorates, the true process of peace, on the ground in Northern ireland. That involves delegating ever more of his direct-rule powers to democratic bodies below the provincial tier. That would involve an emphatic British commitment both against a revived Stormont and in favour of local devolution. Mr Major is not known as an

enthusiast for local self-government. In Ulster it does not offer a glamorous peace. It is not the sort of "solution" that can be boasted at top tables. It blows no trumpets and rings no bells. It offers no triumph for presidents and prime ministers to acclaim. There would be no Stormont theatricals, no stormings-out. The media would be bored. There would only be the steady hum of democracy at work. For the doyen of this Peace Process, I fear that would be an anticlimax

Mr Punch

best-loved magazines is to rise again this year from the ashes. Punch, the 150-year-old journal for comic writers and cartoonists which closed in 1992, has been bought by Mike Molloy, a former Editor of the Daily Mirror.

In partnership with his friend Mike Aalders, who used to own an advertising agency. Molloy took over the old comic on Thursday from United Newspapers, which had been trying for more than a year to sell it for around £500,000.

Molloy refused yesterday to talk about the money that changed hands, but said that his lifelong ambition had always been to edit Punch, "We don't know yet if we're going to bring it back as a weekly, a formightly or a monthly." he said. "But we will bring back Punch, probably in the autumn. I was Editor-in-Chief at the Mirror for five years under Robert Maxwell. It was probably the best training for a humorous magazine."

Comic writers are, er. Punchdrunk with excitement. Our own Alan Coren, who edited Punch for

United's ownership, it fell between the two market stools of middleaged literacy and young subversiveness and it lost money." Coren added: "Punch must be funny from cover to cover, and I am sure Mike Molloy understands that."

● The Princess of Wales appeared to enjoy the gala performance of La



Punch: fell between two stools

Bohême at the Albert Hall on Thursday night. But drinks in the interval may not have been quite to her liking. She was ushered, for her refreshments, into a room hard by the royal box. It was called the Prince of Wales Bar.

Currie sauce

IT'S SCARCELY credible. I know, but Edwina Currie was rendered speechless on Thursday night. She was struck dumb at the launch of her latest political bonkbuster when her daughter Debbie, a student in Huddersfield, walked into the party with a shaved head.

Mother gasped at the prickly daughter's prickly scalp. She stammered, flushed, smiled like a lunatic and eventually forced an utterance. "Look at her! Look at her!" she urged Grandma Currie, also in attendance. "It was always short but ... " Debbie stood firm: "Murn thinks I look like a convict. I did it for fun. I was drunk."

Real mettle

BARONESS THATCHER is to tilt her bonnet to the man she likes to call "Winston". On March 9 she



will travel to Fulton, Missouri, to speak at the university where Sir Winston Churchill made his Iron Curtain speech. It will be almost 50 years to the

day since Churchill visited Fulton's Westminster College to declare: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent." Advance copies of the Sinews of Peace address, as it is sometimes called, had not contained the iron curtain passage.

James Traer, the president of Westminster College, said this week: "Lady Thatcher represents the Churchillian stature of British statesmanship." The numerous Churchill buffs who will gather in Fulton for the anniversary will also take a ride in vintage railcars, fol-

lowing a 1946 route taken by Churchill and Truman. Lady T is unlikely to join them - she dislikes

Heart of gold

YESTERDAY'S article about Lady Romsey's gold pendant with a name inscribed on it was incorrect. I am sorry that I suggested that the name picked out in gold was hers. In fact, it was that of her late daughter, Leonora.

The heart-shaped pendant has a history which began some years ago when Lady Romsey's father-inlaw, Lord Brabourne, underwent a serious heart operation. His nurses were wearing such pendants and. grateful to have survived the op. he wanted one made up for his wife. in fact, two were made.

When his son Nicky was tragically killed in 1979 with Earl Mountbatten by a terrorist bomb. Lord Brabourne had the heart inscribed with the young man's signature. Similarly, when little Leonora died, he had her name placed over the second pendant in her own writing, and gave it to his daughter-in-law Lady Romsey, to whom it is a most special piece of



Liz Hurley: even more stroppy.

 With all this talk-about MPs and their pay. I have good news for Dennis Skinner. His son, Dennis (true), is being tipped for a £60,000-a-year job with London's Camden council in a shake-up of senior

management. Dennis Ir is firm favourite to become assistant chief executive (policy and partnerships), and Dad is thrilled. "He's a bright lad - he's always being promot-ed," says Dennis Sr. "He got four A levels — that's four more than John Major - and he's got an econom-

Fatal femme

HUGH CRANT is likely to keep out of trouble from now on, not least because his girlfriend, the pulchritudinous Liz Hurley, describes herself as "bossy" and "tough". In a punchy interview for OKI magazine, she describes an episode in which she considers she should have been even "more stroppy".

Playing a hard-nosed reporter for a television film, she thought the costume given to her by the wardrobe department - strappy sandals and a minuscule designer skirt - was inappropriate. To play someone real, you should be in your jeans and T-shirt. We had some terrible rows and I ended up too glam in a mini-dress. Weakned can be fatal." Grant would doubt-

TO THE CONVENTION

Sinn Fein should work for peace through politics

A spirit of compromise too often absent in Northern Ireland allowed the funeral of the republican terrorist Gino Gallagher to pass without serious incident yesterday. A cortege of men in berets may be an uncomfortable reminder that republicanism is as much at home rantling sabres as shaking presidential hands, but a difficult day did not assume the dangerous significance it could have done.

10

Republican resentment with the speed of the peace process does, however, seem to be growing. The show of Sinn Fein strength at Milltown Cemetery and the shots fired on Thursday night at the home of an RUC officer suggest the peace in Northern Ireland is still brittle. If democracy is to take root, its defenders should use all their energy to make the case for politics as the route to

The nature of Irish republicanism makes it difficult to discern the real feelings of the movement's leaders, let alone its grass roots. Sinn Fein is a Leninist party which debates internally and does not welcome public dissent. The experience of splits in the Seventies re-inforces the cautious, and centralised, style of its leadership. For that reason warnings from Gerry Adams about IRA impatience with the pace of the peace process are as likely to be veiled threats as open agonising. Given the closed nature of his party, its president can portray himself as responding to pressure rather than creating it.

Nevertheless, recent events do suggest a genuine unease among republicans. Having hoped that the Mitchell report would remove one obstacle to all-party talks decommissioning weapons — they felt thwarted by what they saw as the erection of another: elections. It would be impossible to secure the attendance of the Unionists who represent majority opinion in the Province without elections first; but Sinn Fein is not inclined to appreciate Unionist sensitivities. A movement built on intimidation is impatient with parties which prefer

Republican impatience has not yet meant a significant momentum for a return to

armed struggle. But military muscles are being flexed. The shooting of drug dealers and punishment beatings serve to keep Sinn Fein fiefdoms in line and IRA volunteers in practice. Gino Gallagher, "chief of staff" of the terrorist splinter group, the INLA, was more irritant than ally to Sinn Fein. His associates suspect he may have been another IRA victim. Whoever pulled the trigger, the presence of so many Sinn Fein figures at his funeral sent a simple message, one which Mr Adams had let slip on a previous occasion: the IRA has not gone away.

But if republicans are to play a part in future talks, the fears aroused among the greater number by the threat of physical force need to be allayed. Decommissioning may be difficult; the culture of no surrender is every bit as embedded in republican minds as loyalist. Fortunately, other ways exist to build confidence. A willingness to contest elections to a peace convention and secure a fresh mandate for a political solution to Northern Ireland's troubles

could advance matters dramatically.

It is a pity that President Clinton did not take advantage of his conversation this week with Mr Adams to advocate elections as a route to talks. Top republicans have become accustomed to practising their politics in first-class compartments and at \$100 dinners rather than street corners and safe houses. The knowledge that the red carpet would not be rolled out at the White House if Sinn Fein rejected the elective process would have concentrated any closed minds within republican ranks.

All parties in Northern Ireland are grateful for 17 months of peace, and most are anxious to entrench it. Republican concerns about roadblocks to progress are understandable, but the greatest impediment to peace is their own unwillingness to work within democratic structures. Sinn Fein has come a long way since it decided to abandon abstentionism; it would be tragic if the party were to refuse to embrace the most important elections of all - to a body which could bring Northern Ireland's people

PER AMATEUR AD ASTRA

Whether the fuel be hydrogen, sugar or pure imagination

Britain's latest rocket was successfully launched yesterday. As Saturns and Soyuzes go. it made only a small bang. After accelerating to 450mph, it reached the peak of its climb at 3,000ft and was then parachuted back to Earth. To break away from the Earth's gravitational pull and into orbit it will have to climb much faster and farther than that: over 25,000mph and at least 50 miles out into space.

So this is a small step for official rocketry. But it is a giant leap for the romantics who have launched man's adventures. Steve Bennett, the amateur rocketeer from Manchester, has already launched 12 rockets. His Starchaser II is the largest homemade rocket in Europe. It is sponsored by the sugar company, Tate & Lyle, which also contributes some secret ingredient to its fuel. Mr Bennett is competing against other space venturers for the prize of being the first amateur to launch into space.

It was war which first made rocketry the preserve of professionals. Sir William Congreve launched the horizontal rockets that were used against Napoleon. But it was the Second World War which transformed the business of whooshers and boosters: Only the military and the State made rockets, and especially the German varieties. Since the war, only the greatest nations have had the money and the scientific exhaust velocity for intercontinental ballistic missiles and space

travel. But the urge to escape from human

limitations appeals to more basic instincts even than defence and profit. This divine discontent and the itch for forbidden fruit are what distinguish the ascent of man from that of the other animals. Jules Verne started From the Earth to the Moon as a satire on crazy American enterprise. But he was so carried away by his vision of the stars that he turned it into the first serious story of space travel. And considering that he was inventing the theory of Astrogation, which he also named Astronautics, his physics and mathematics got a lot right. His account of the rivalries and bureaucratic obstruction in the Gun Club of Baltimore, with its immense gun to fire a rocket to the Moon. was prophetic of space programmes everywhere.

Verne even imagined countdown to blastoff, and the feelings of terror and exhilaration in the ground crew. So Mr Bennett is following an archetypal vapour trail of the imagination as well as the remarkable advances of rocket science. For an earthbound, wingless creature to aim at the heavens is an ambition as old as that of the first philosophers. Now Mr Bennett is back in Manchester working on Starchaser III, standing on the achievements of rocketeers private and public, and the imaginations of all who have ever looked up at the full Moon. Jules Verne got it right: "thirty-eight! - thirty-nine - forty! FIRE!!!" Rockets are fired by the imagination as well as liquid hydrogen, ions — or even sugar.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

But teenagers rarely honour their parents

Philip Larkin's famous thoughts about parents live on: however hard they try, they 'ness their children up. Yesterday's erring mother was Marjorie Vickers, accused of too intense a devotion to her son. Stephen, an 18year-old with severe physical handicaps. who was reduced last year to taking her to court in an effort to break away from her stifling over-protectiveness. The injunction he then won has now been overturned on the ground that prison would hardly be an appropriate punishment for overabundant love. His mother has still had to accept, though, that the best place for him is not by

her side but at a special school. A psychiatrist might spot a selfish element in Mrs Vickers's devotion. True love, after all, involves understanding the best interests of the one who is loved. True love sometimes has to involve letting go: almost always, in the case of a parent and child. In the case of a handicapped child, it may sometimes be tempting for a mother to assume that only she is capable of understanding his needs. But, in Stephen Vickers's circumstances, this

was patently not true. The most obviously dysfunctional families are those that thrive upon hatred or violence rather than love and affection. That of Agamemnon and his wife, Clytemnestra. must surely be the epitome. He killed their daughter, his wife killed him and their son killed her. But families do not have to end up a pile of dramatically strewn bodies to be classed as failures. Sometimes parents are had for their children not because they love them too little but because they love them too

Even parents who think that they have worked out a healthy balance between love and possessiveness are usually blamed by their adolescent offspring for doing the wrong thing. The Montagues and Capulets were seen as tyrants who obstructed the true course of love. Yet the parents of Sarah Cook were widely condemned for allowing their 13-year-old daughter to marry a man four years older than Romeo. Tyranny or irresponsibility? Parents simply cannot get it

When children turn into teenagers, dissatisfaction becomes their leitmotif. Usually they think their parents are too staid and unfashionable. Yet the alternative is just as bad. The subject of today's profile in our business section. Paul Simons, consciously keeps up with teenage trends so that he can make advertisements that will appeal to adolescents. Most teenage children, though, would dread having a 47-year-old father who could sing along to Blur and reach the

last stage of Mortai Kombat. The best parents are those who understand that bringing up children is a constant process of weaning. Encouraging them to be as independent as possible helps to turn them into confident adults. But the transition into adulthood requires a questioning of the unconditional love that younger children give their parents. Part of growing up is person you have become.

blaming your mother and father for the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Sentencing policy: the judges' clash with Home Office La Fenice before

From Mr Neville Goldrein

Sir. It is the duty of Parliament to legislate and the duty of the judiciary to carry out the decisions of the legislature. This applies not only to the general laws, but clearly also to the specific laws relating to sentencing. The law is made by Parliament and is administered by the courts.

In this context I fail to see the rationale of the objections by a number of judges to the Home Secretary's proposals for a mandatory life sentence for a second rape (report, February 1). The first objection appears to be that of a fetter to their discretion which they consider should be unfettered. But in fact their discretion is always fettered in criminal cases.

Parliament always prescribes a maximum sentence for each offence they are never open-ended - whether it be a fine of £10 or 14 years in prison. The judges do not object to this, but it limits their discretion. I question, then, their sudden aversion to this proposed mandatory life sentence.

In addition Lord Justice Rose told The Times that "rapists will think that they may as well kill their victims there's no point in leaving them alive if the sentence is the same". That sounds plausible but disregards the fact that a life sentence is not a life sentence, I believe that the average term served by a "lifer" is nine years.

The length of the sentence is finally determined by the Home Secretary in the light of reports and professional advice from year to year. And so a vicious murder and a rape would clearly involve a longer term than that im-posed for a "simple" second rape with a minimum of violence. If the rapist intends to stop to think it out - and I do not think that he does - it will be clear to him that there is every point in leaving the victim alive.

Until recently the judiciary have accepted their very essential and skilled role as administrators of the law. They are not the law-makers. It would be better if the roles hitherto filled should remain unchanged.

I am, Sir, yours truly. NEVILLE GOLDREIN, Torreno, St Andrew's Road. Blundellsands, Liverpool. February I.

Women at the top

Sir, I read with interest the report

(January 30) stating: "The glass ceil-ing has not merely broken in America, it has shattered." This is indeed en-

couraging news for individual women

and organisations alike, both here

in the UK we still have a long way

to go to achieve a balanced workforce.

but some progress is being made.

Among the 291 member organisations

of Opportunity 2000, the proportion of

from 8 per cent in 1994 to to in 1995.

The proportion of women at senior

management level has increased from

25 to 32 per cent over the same period.

By contrast, the statistics available

for the total spread of organisations in

the UK show women make up only

10.7 per cent of managers overall, and

improvement: it represents a real

commitment to improving employ-

ment opportunities for women at all

levels. But before we can begin to com-

pete with our US counterparts there is

a lot both employers and employees

can do. Organisations need to ensure

availability and take-up of family-

friendly policies. The long-hours cul-

ture must also be challenged, as well

as some entrenched attitudes to em-

playment of both men and women.

Sir, The money to be given by the Na-

tional Lonery to restore our public

parks ("A green and pleasant land.", January 29 is indeed cause for cele-

I agree with Marcus Binney that

improving the security in parks is es-

emtial if we are to safeguard the lot-

tery investment from future vanda-

lism. However I question that this is

best achieved by simply increasing the

The inner-city London borough of

Southwark, among others, has intro-

duced a highly "proactive" park rang-

er service which preanises education-

ai and recreational activities in local

parks, and at the same time their con-

tinuous presence minimises the need

for police. These activities involve all age groups and are proving a con-

structive and lasting way to combat

The rangers programme has helped

to increase the pride and involvement

of the local community in the well-be-

ing of its parks, which policing alone

lottery money can be invested in im-

plementing similar schemes else-

It must be hoped that some of the

ELSPETH HOWE. Chairman.

Yours faithfully.

February I.

Opportunity 2000.

S Stratton Street, W1.

Park security

numbers of police.

vandalism.

cannot achieve.

Yours faithfully,

January 30.

SUSAN LASDUN.

51 Rowan Road, Wo.

From Ms Susan Lasdun

Our members this is an impressive

a mere 3 per cent of directorships.

From the Chairman of

Opportunity 2000

and in the US.

From Sir David Calcutt, QC

Sir. Mandatory sentences for serious criminal offences are alien to the English tradition. When death was the penalty for murder, a mandatory sentence was perhaps understandable.

When in 1965 death, as the penalty for murder, was replaced by a sentence of life imprisonment, it was perhaps understandable that, at that time, the sentence should have remained mandatory. But this was exceptional.

The circumstances in which offences are committed, and the degree of moral turpitude involved, vary widely from case to case. To deprive the judge, who is familiar with the particular facts of each case, of the discretion to do justice in each case, can itself only lead to injustice.

If any change in the law is now to be made, it should be the removal of the anomaly of the continuing mandatory sentence for murder.

Yours faithfully DAVID CALCUTT. 35 Essex Street, Temple, WC2

From Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, QC Sir, Anyone listening this morning to the Home Secretary on the Today programme, deriding the present system of sentencing as "half-time sentences for full-time crime" could be forgiven for failing to appreciate that the sys-

tem was introduced by the Government as recently as October 1992. It resulted from the unanimous recommendations of the review committee into the parole system, set up in 1987 by the then Home Secretary. Douglas Hurd, for the very purpose of restoring "honesty into sentencing" and in implementation of a 1987 election pledge. Its membership included two members of the judiciary and a chief constable, and I had the privi-

lege of chairing it. Until 1991 anyone sentenced by the court could be released from prison at any time between one third and two thirds of their sentence, usually at the whim of the local review committee. All sentences ceased to have effect after the two-thirds point.

Under our proposals, as implemented by the Government, all prisoners serving sentences of up to four years must now spend half of their

Sir. Matthew Parris (article, January

22: letters. January 27) finds it difficult

to understand what it might mean to forgive. Yet he himself goes some way

towards an answer in suggesting that

it is primarily about restored relation-

ships, not an impersonal transaction.

To forgive is to continue to maintain

relationship with someone despite

the hurt you feel they have done you.

Matthew Parris appears to think that

forgiving implies a mental act of for-

On the contrary, the hurt does in

some sense remain there, but healed

or transformed in the context of a con-

tinuing relationship. If we share the

fact that we feel hurt with the person

responsible for this hurt, this can

sometimes transform the relation-

ship. The hurt is not forgotten but is

subsumed into a new, deeper phase of

Jesus taught us to live on the basis of the prayer — Father, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin

against us." This means continuing in

a relationship with those who hurt us

and wishing them well, as we pray

round the corner, any more than there

is a utopia. So the only possible basis

ship, family or wider society, is in an

acceptance of others grounded in and

shaped by God's acceptance of us,

hurt and all. But in such relationships

there is healing and transformation.

for community, whether it is friend-

There is no perfect relationship just

that God does towards us.

Yours faithfully. †RICHARD OXON,

February 2

Diocesan Church House,

North Hinksey, Oxford.

A & L flotation

Catholic Building Society

Sir. I am becoming increasingly con-

cerned about the eroding of the origi-

nal purpose of building societies. This

was to enable investors to put their

money into a properly supervised sys-tem, overseen by the Building Societ-

ies Commission, and to provide suffi-

cient funds for the prospective pur-

the mad rush to merge with banks.

with inflated payouts to bosses and in-

vestors (report, February I), is detract-

ing from the principle of mutuality on-

which the building societies were

It is clear to those involved in the

practical administration of these insti-

tutions that the lush funds arising

from mergers would be best employed

in arrears funds, thereby avoiding the

unnecessary plight of those facing re-

Weekend Money letters, page 39

possession, and often homelessness.

Today the concept has changed and

From the Chair of the

chaser of a property

founded.

Yours faithfully.

NONA BYRNE, Chair.

7 Strutton Ground, SWI.

The Catholic Building Society.

that it is no longer there.

the relationship.

From the Bishop of Oxford

Overcoming it all with forgiveness

sentence in prison. Subject to good behaviour they are then released back into the community: but they remain at risk of being required to serve the remaining part of their sentence should they be convicted of another offence before the expiry of their origin-

al full sentence. Those sentenced to more than 12 months are also subject to a period of compulsory supervision in the community. For those serving four years or more the existing parole provisions remain, but every prisoner now has to serve at least half of the sentence in prison rather than one third as previously.

These principles were intended specifically to restore meaning to the whole of the sentence and to let both the convicted prisoner and the public know with certainty the effect of any sentence passed.

I know of no evidence to suggest that this system has failed. To abolish it now and replace it with "real time" sentencing means either a massive increase in the size of the prison population, or a dramatic reduction in the length of sentences passed by the

It would to my mind be a great pity a penal policy which has been so generally accepted should once again become the subject of party political

Yours faithfully, MARK CARLISLE, House of Lords.

From Mr D. P. Marchessini

Sir. Outside Wonderland, it is wellknown that the number of people in the world capable of taking a human life in cold blood is very small indeed and that furthermore this number is not elastic.

The suggestion that a stiffer sentence will turn a non-murderer into a murderer flies in the face of human nature and human experience. Indeed, if the Lord Justice's argument is followed to its logical conclusion, the best way to reduce murders is to abolish prison sentences altogether.

Yours faithfully, D. P. MARCHESSINI, Kingsbury House, 15-17 King Street, St James's, SWI.

From Mr R. J. Kershaw (1985) 1996

Sir. The prayer all Christians know-

the Lord's Prayer - consists, for the most part, of straightforward requests

to God; but halfway through the tone

changes: "forgive us our sins as we for-

give others" - and "as" means "to the

extent that". So Mr Parris (and the

rest of us) fail to forgive at our peril.

Sir, Canon Oestreicher, in his letter of

January 27 on forgiveness, puts his

linger on a crucial point. We know that ideally we should hate the sin and

love the sinner. But, if we can elimi-

nate or at least control bitterness and,

above all, hatred towards the offend-

Six years ago i published a small

book, Forgiveness of Man by Man. It was not widely distributed or review-

ed but no one, as far as I am aware,

has disputed my claim that it is the

only book on that precise subject

three areas of controversy. Can and

should one forgive someone who has

not injured oneself? Can and should

one forgive someone who has not ap-

parently repented? Can forgiveness be

combined with a just punishment?

starting from a Christian premise one

can and should arrive at an affirma-

Sir. Are the English becoming very

odd in their attitude to country life? A

leading travel company marketing gites recently informed mouse-sensi-

tive customers that if they were wor-

ried about creepy crawlies, they

Now one of the admirable apart-ment-holiday companies, advertising

with The Times, warms in its latest

brochure: "Wildlife. Animals, birds

and insects are always present in the

country side and you must accept their

presence, even intrusion within rea-

sonable limits. We cannot take action.

nor give compensation, for the natural

Letters for publication should carry

contact telephone numbers. We

regret that we cannot accept

letters by telephone but they

may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

processes of French country life."

Yours faithfully.

PETER WOOD,

Newbold Farm,

February 1.

Duntisbourne Abbots,

Circnester, Gloucestershire.

should go to the beach instead.

tive answer in all three cases.

Take it, or leave it

Yours sincerely, FRANK LONGFORD,

From Mr Peter Wood

House of Lords.

February 2

I submitted, and submit again, that

in that small book I singled out

available to English readers.

er, we move a long way forward.

Yours sincerely.

Dartford, Kent.

R. J. KERSHAW.

8 King Edward Avenue,

From the Earl of Longford

and after the fire

From Mr Gavin Hooper

Sir. As the owner of a flat in Venice I was reassured by your front page picture today (our roof was visible and unsinged), but sad that in your report you described the fire that destroyed the Fenice theatre as "a further blow to the image of Venice".

The sinking and pollution have been addressed, and to a very large ex-tent, halted or indeed reversed. Historical problems of settlement (due to a lowering of the water table) have left the city with perhaps a higher spring tide than is ideal. However, the city has always flooded and thus cleansed itself. The idea of an artificial lagoon to prevent the rising of the water is be-ing considered and will probably be rejected for this reason.

The problem of pollution and water extraction by industries in Mestre across the lagoon is pretty well a thing of the past. Laws with serious penalties exist and are enforced.

Erosion and decay are part and parcel of a city built on a lagoon, and over-exuberant repair is almost as damaging as neglect. In a city as fra-gile as Venice constant vigilance and renewal is required, but the myth that it is sinking into polluted oblivion just is not true. Nor does it help hardworking fundraisers or give credit to those who have made restoration possible.

The tragedy is that although the Fenice will rise again, inevitably there will be a diversion of funds from other vital projects.

Yours faithfully, GAVIN HOOPER, Calle de Le Veste, 2014 San Marco. 30124 Venice, Italy.

From Mr Iain Mackintosh

January 31.

Sir, The auditorium of La Fenice was as 18th-century as Der Rosenkavalier. Antonio Selva's 1792 design was re-built in Empire style in 1836, had the rococo applied in 1853 and was modernised in 1937.

The original 5m deep forestage. where the singer performed within the volume of the house was nibbled away to nothing, pushing action and settings upstage behind a 19th-century picture frame and making a nonsense of the sightlines from Selva's side box4

A Company of the Comp

es where I sat on my visit last year. The restorations of the 1748 and 1753 opera houses of Bayreuth and Munich, in 1935 and 1958 respectively, also abolished the acting forestage and moved the performer upstage behind

an inappropriate picture frame. Today directors and designers wish to reverse this stend and recover the immediacy of music theatre by bringing performers and settings through the arch into the house. It would be sad therefore if we either built new opera houses or restored great 18th-century ones in obsolete 20th-century for-

. There is a case for restoring Selva's original interior but less of a case for freezing the evolution of the great the-

I am. Sir. your obedient servant. IAIN MACKINTOSH (Design Director), Theatre Projects Consultants, 3 Apollo Studios, Charlton Kings Road, NW5.

From Dr Roy A. Russell

Sir, My wife and I have visited Venice five times in the last eight years at differing times of the year; during the 20 days or so we have spent there no opera has been performed and La Fenice has not been open for the casual visitor to appreciate this "iewel".

I trust that you are not proposing that it should be ... rebuilt, again, just as it was fleading article, January 31), without advocating that it should be made more accessible to a wider audience and more positive in its approach.

Yours sincerely, ROY RUSSELL Leckonby House.

Great Eccleston, Preston, Lancashire.

What's in a name? From Mr William Harmer

Sir, The confusion caused by having

II Christophers in the Algeric School under-12 football side (report, February I) is surely another example of the downside of over-lamiliarity; what on earth's wrong with using surnames. as was accepted practice when I was at prep school in the 1950s? Yours faithfully,

HARMER. Barnfield Farm, Hullavington, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Whinge to win From the Minister at the Australian High Commission

Sir, Simon Barnes is right, of course. to pay tribute to Australian whingeing ("It ain't cricket, cobber", February 2) However, just imagine how much better the Australian Test cricket record over the past year might have been (it was 3-1 v England, 2-1 v West Indies, 2-1 v Pakistan, 3-0 v Sri Lanka) if Australian players hadn't spent so much time moaning. They'll probably be so

busy complaining next year they II for-

get to defend the Ashes (5-0?).

Yours faithfully. IAN WILCOCK, Minister, Australian High Commission, Australia House, Strand, WC2 February 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 2: The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the Junior School in Stanley and laid the foundation stone. Her Royal Highness later visited Stanley Museum. The Princess Royal afterwards attended a Race Meeting at Stan-

prizes to the winners.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a Forewell Dinner at Government House. ST JAMES'S PALACE

ley Racecourse and presented the

ebruary 2: The Prince of Wales, Chairman, this afternoon gave a Luncheon for Board Members of the new trust formed by The Prince of Wales' Committee.

KENSINGTON PALACE February 2: The Duchess of

Royal engagements TODAY:

Prince Edward will attend a lun-cheon followed by the Rugby Union match between England and Wales at Twickenham at and 12.30. TOMORROW:

Prince Edward, as Patron of the Scottish Badminton Union, will attend the finals of the Hydro-Electric Scottish National Championships at the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, at 12.45.

Weekend events

TODAY: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.
TOMORROW: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at

Chatelard School, Switzerland

A Reunion Buffet Tea is to be held near London, on Sunday, May 5, 1996. Telephone 01753 662993.

Mowden School, Hove

Mowden School is celebrating its centenary during 1996. Any Old Boys who have not yet received details please contact the Headmaster's Secretary at Mowden School, The Droveway, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6LU.

Horners' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Homers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr David J. Rogers; Upper Warden, Mr Charles K. Howe; Renter Warden, Mr Jeremy J. Cartwright.

Dinner

Lord Byron Lord Blake presided at a dinner debate of the Byron Society held last night at the House of Lords by courtesy of Lord Byron, who was also the principal speaker. The Countess of Eldon, the Earl of Uchester, the Earl of Liverpool and

Gloucester, Patron, Plan International (UK), this morning re-ceived Mr Stephen Bingham on relinquishing the appointment of National Director and Mrs Anna Wardman on assuming the appointment.
The Duke and Duchess of

Gloucester today received the Ambassador of Denmark (His Excellency Mr Rudolph Thorning-Peterson) and Mrs Thorning-

YORK HOUSE. STJAMES'S PALACE

February 2: The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Coun-cil, today attended the Engineering in Action Forum, at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre,

University news

University College New Fellows and Honorary Fellows 1995-96

Fellows: Professor Geoffrey Burnstock

Professor of Anatomy and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, UCL, since 1975; Ms Vera Chirwa, barrister and political rights cam-paigner. Malawi: Mr Liman Ciroma, chairman of the Nigerian operations of the Union Trading Company and Tate: Dr Peter Brian Clapham, National Physical Laboratory, Chief Executive 1990-95; Mr Daniel Charles Cohen, 95; Mr Daniel Charles Cohen, executive director, Caradon ple; Ms Bearrice De Cardi, archaeologist; Professor Krith James Ives, Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering, UCL, since 1992; Mr Roger Alan Lyons, general secretary, Manufacturing Science and Fmance Union, since 1992; Sir Ronald Mason, Chairman, UCL. Ronald Mason, Chairman, UCL Hospitals NHS Trust, 1993-95; Dr Hospitals NHS Trust, 1943-95; Dr Barbara Mary Frances Pearse, MRC Molecular Biology Lab-oratory, Cambridge, since 1982; Professor John Howard Ridd, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, UCL, since 1993; Mr Peter Snow, Head of Theatre Design, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL since 1968.

Honorary Fellows Professor Michael Geoffrey Audicy Charles, Emeritus Professor of Geology, UCL since 1993; Profes

sor Timothy John Biscoe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Hong Kong University, since 1992: Mr Mau-rice Hatter, chairman and owner, IMO Precision Controls; Professor Sir Frank Kermode, Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature, UCL, 1967-74: Pro Desmond Roger Laurence, Emer-itus Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, UCL, since 1984; Mr Hugh Michael Priestley, Treasure, UCL, since 1981.

Service dinner HAC Mess Club

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests at a dinner of the Honourable Artillety Company Mess Club held last night at Armoury House. Colonel Sir Colin Cole, presi-dent, was in the chair. Colonel C.H.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr G.A. Allan, Head-master, Robert Gordon's College, Society, 66; the Hon Sir Clive Bossom, former MP. 78; Professor Aberdeen, 60; Sir Anthony Alment, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 74; the Earl of Antrim, 61: Miss Gillian Ayres, painter, 66; Mr Val Doonican, singer, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, 71: the Earl of Hardwicke, 25: Mr Gavin Henderson, Principal, Trinity College of Music, 48; Sir Edgar Keatinge, former MP and company director, 91: Mr James A. Michener, author, 39: Baroness O'Cathain, 58; Miss Elaine Padmore, opera singer and direc-ur. 49: Brigadier the Hon Dame Mary Pihl, former director. WRAC, 80; Lord Sherfield, 92; Mr Glen Tetley, choreographer, 70: Mr Frankie Vaughan, singer, 66.

TOMORROW: Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore, 75; Mr John Bird, former MEP, 70: Mr Colin Black, former chairman, Scottish Wid-

28th, to Sandy (see Mulliss) and Phil. a son, Nicholas James, a brother for

PENKINS - See Cook

JOHNSON - On January 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Laurence (née Libler) and

Kevin, a beautiful son,

OGILVIE-GRAHAM - On 11th January 1996, to Tinamay and Tom, a

daughter.

OLSRYS - On January 27th at The Portland Hossial, to Buzena (née Tabizz) and Jan, a beautiful daughter.

BIRTHS

John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, 49; Mr Jim Cuaning-ham, MP, 55: Dr P.E. Thompson hart, MP, Ss. Dr P.E. Thompson Hancock, oncologist, 92; Lord Haslam, 73; the Earl of Hillsborough, 37; Mr R.C. Hobon, writer, 71; the Marquis of Huntly, 52; Mr David Malouf, novelist, 62; the Hon Mrs Ray Michie, MP, 62; Lord Moncreiff, 81; Mr Stanley Newers, MEP, 66; Lord Justice Nicholson, 63; Mr Tim O'Sullivan, former Governor, Holloway former Governor, Holloway prison, 53; Mr Charles Pollard, Chief Constable, Thames Valley, 51; Mr William Ross, MP, 60; Mr Sichard Ryder, MP, 47; Lord Shawcross, QC, 94; Mr John Willan, former managing director, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 53: Mr Norman Wisdom, actor and comedian, 81: the Most Rev

Choral E. Christ whose glory (Archer), The Dean.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 S

Euch & M; 11 S Euch, 1 sat down under his shadow (Bainstow), The Dean: 3.15 E. Lord, 1 call upon thee (Bairstow); 6.30 Candlemas.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, The Call (Williams), Canon D Weston; 3 E. Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8 (Haydn).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8; 11.15 S Euch, Biessed are the pure (Davies), Canon B Thompson: 6 Choral E. Senex pueram portabal (Viltoria), The Provost.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M, Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Rev C Johnson: 11 S Euch. O sacrum convivium (Mersiaen), Mr G Duncan: 3.30 E. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: 0xford: 8 HC: 10 M & Sermon. Rev Prof Sir Herry Chadwick II.15 S Euch. O.10rd the maker (Mundy: 6 E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton). Mundy: 6 E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

Guerran Cathedral: 7.40 Mp. 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Mass in C Major (Mozani, Rev Caregory; 5.30 E Purge me O Lord (Tailis). The secret of Christ (Shepbard).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Grent and marvelious are thy works (Tomkins). Canon D Hodgson: I 11.5 HC. Sacerdotes Domlini (Byrd). The Precentor; 3.30 E. Lord, by whose breath (Howelis).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The Lord is my shepherd (Betkeley). The Precentor; 3.45 E, Great is the Lord (Eigar). EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, We wait for thy loying kindness (McKlee, Nune Dimittis (Holst). The Treasurer; I1.15 M, When to the temple Mays when (Eccard). Blessed be the God and Futher (Weit): 6.30 E. Illuminare Jerusalem (Weit): 6.30 E. The heavens are teilling (Haydn). The Dean.

Guildford Cathedral: 8 HC; 9.45 S Ench. The Archdeau of Nottingham.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Ench. The Archdeau of Nottingham.

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TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Ench. The Archdeau of Nottingham.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Ench. The Archdeau of Nottingham. Derek Worlock, CH. Archbishop of Liverpool, 76: Mr Matthew Yates, athlete, 27.



Commander Andrew Underwood, captain of HMS Richmond, the Royal Navy's newest Type 23 frigate, yesterday welcomed the mayors of three Richmonds to his ship, moored in the Port of London. From left, Leonidas Young, Jr. Mayor of Richmond, Virginia, Bob King, Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, and Katherine Carr, Mayor of Richmond. Yorkshire

Latest wills

Mr Arthur Frederick Holt, of Ambleside, Cumbria, Liberal MP for Bolton West 1951-64, left estate valued at £209.779 net. Professor Eric Barff Birley, of

Greenhead, Northumberland, Professor of Romano-British History and Archaeology at Durham University 1956-71, left estate val-ued at £184,000 net. Sir John Nuttall Maxwell Entwistle, of Stone Hall, Sedbergh, Cumbria, left estate

valued at £69,267 net. His wife Lady Jean Cunliffe McAlpine Entwistle left estate valued at El70,668 net. Miss Ida Gertrude Carroll, of Didsbury, Manchester, former Dean of Management of the Royal Northern College of Music, left estate valued at E273,375

Mahin Tork Javaheri, of London W2, left estate valued at £148,231 nes. She left all her estate to the Recent estates include (net, before tax);

Cynthia Rosamund St Quinton, of Sherborne £1,322,542 E1,322,542

Anniversaries

American President 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Oliver Heaviside, physicist, London, 1925; Boris Karloff, actor, Midhurst, West Sussex, 1969. BIRTHS: Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Hamburg, 1809; Eliza-beth Blackwell, physician and co-founder of the London School of Medicine for Women, Bristol, 1821: President Woodrow Wilson pre-sided at the first meeting of the League of Nations in Paris, 1919. Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, Prime Minister 1885-86, 1886-92 and 1895-1902, Hatfield The Queen visited Australia, the House, Hertfordshire, 1830; Hugh Sidney Lanier, poet and musician, reigning monarch to do so, Macon, Georgia, 1842; Hugh Montague Trenchard, 1st Viscount Trenchard, Marshal of the RAF. Harold Macmillan made his his-

toric "The wind of change is blowing through this continent" speech to the South African purliament, Cape Town, 1960. Yasser Arafat was appointed leader of the PLO, 1969.

BIRTHS: Pierre Marivaux, nov-elist and dramatist, Paris, 1688; George Lillo, dramatist, London, 1693; Carl Bellman, songwriter, Stockholm, 1740; Tadeusz Kosciusko, Polish patriot, Mereczow-czyna, 1746; William Harrison Ainsworth, novelist, Manchester, 1805; Fernand Léger, painter, Argentan, France, 1881; Edwin Pratt. poet, Western Bay. Newfoundland, 1883; Ugo Beni,

dramatist, Camerino, Italy, 1892. dramatist, Camerino, Italy, 1892; Ludwig Erhard, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany 1963-66, Fürth, 1897; Jacques Prévert, poet. Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1900; Charles Lindbergh, avianor, Detroit, 1902; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian Breslau 1906. logian, Breslau, 1906. DEATHS: Lucius Septimus Se-

verus, Roman Emperor 193-21, York, 21; Antonio Pollaiuolo, sculptor, Rome, 1498, John Rogers, Protestant marryr, burnt at the stake, London, 1555; Giovanni Battista Della Porta, philosopher, Naples, 1615; Robert Koldewey, archaeologist who excavated Bab-ylon, Bertin, 1925; Edward Sapir, anthropologist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1939; Karen Carpenter, singer, Los Angeles, 1983; Liberace, pianist, Palm Springs,

The Yalta conference of Churchil Roosevelt and Stalin opened; 1945. Ceylon, later known as Sri Lanka, became un independent state. 1948. The Sunday Times issued the first The world's largest hovercraft (165 tonnes) was launched at Cowes, Isle of Wight, 1968.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Bouncy and Miss G.C.R. Lauric

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bonney, of West Cosham, Hampshire, and Gaynor. only daughter of Mr and Mrs Maxwell Laurie, of Thornton le Dale, Yorkshire.

Mr J.M. Bowery and Miss S.L. Kendell

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs A. Mervyn Bowery, of Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Kendell, of Smiths Parish

Mr D.R. Gollings and Miss K.J. Hogan

The engagement is announced between Denzil, son of Mr Harry Gollings and Mrs Rosin Gollings of Royal Learnington Spa, and Karin, eldest daughter of Mr. William Hogan and Mrs Rarol Hogan, of Formby. Liverpool :

Mr E.W. Heard and Miss A.L. Tallis

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr Terbetween Edward, son or her teleprocesson of Malmesbury, Wils-shire, and Mrs Simon Spicer, of Spye Park, Wilshire, and Alexandra, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Tallis, of Hinton

Mr E.A. Leckie and Miss E.J. Skipper

and Miss E.J. Supper, of Aspley
Guise, Buckinghamshire, and
London, have pleasure in
announcing the engagement of
their younger daughter Emma, to
Essan, only son of Graham Leckie. and the late Veronica Leckie, of Amersham; Buckinghamshire.

Mr V.G. Geake and Miss H.C. Heat The engagement is announced between Vincent, younger son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Geake, of

Topsham, Devon, and Harriet, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs.
C.G. Heal, of Tedongton; Middlesex Mr M.R. Charlesworth

and Miss P.A. Clary The engagement is announced between Matthew Kerber, your ger son of Mr and Mrs Arnie Charlesworth, of Firbeck, Yorkshire, and Phillipa Alice daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Clary, of Wallis Wood, Surrey.

Mr B.J. Holden and Miss E.J.D. Chandler between Barry, only son of Mrand Mrs R. Holden, of Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R. Chandler, of Dulwich, London.

Mr R.J. Springthorpe and Miss F.L. Morgan The engagement is aunounced between Robin; younger son of Mrand Mrs E.G. Springhorpe, of Starston, Norfolk, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr V. Morgan, of Gilwern, Gwent, and of Mrs I. Morgan, of Child Mill, Gwent,

Mr W.G. Strode
and Miss E.M. Sheard
The engagement is announced
between William, son of Mr and
Mrs P.H. Strode, of East Lavant, West Sussex, and Emily, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.H.W. Sheard, of

Marriage

Mr R.B. Tiley and Mrs S.S. Hall The marriage took place quiedy in London on Saturday, January 20, 1996, between Mr Roy Tiley and Mrs Stephanie Hall.

Church news

The Rev Eric Littler, Vicar, St. Andrews, Westcliff-on-Sea: to be Rector, East and West Tilbury and Linford (Chelmsford).
The Rev John Macaulay, Chaplain of Liverpool College (Liverpool): to be Rector, St Luke, Lowion, same

diocese:
The Rev Ivor Moody, Vicar, Tilbury Docks, St John the Baptist.
(Chelmsford): to be Anglican
Chaptain (full-time) to the Anglican
Polytechnic. University. Chelmston Camous and Honoray Assoford Campus, and Honorary Asso-ciate Chaplain of Chelmsford Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Dr Michael Nott, Vicar, Broadheath, Crown East and Rushwick to be also Rural Dean

of Martiey and Worcester West (Worcester). The Rev Benjamin Phillips, Curate. Chipping Barnet w Arkley (St. Albans): to be Vicar, Bodicon (Oxford).

The Rev Christine Prant, NSM; Earley St Peter: In he NSM; Earley St Peter: In he NSM; Reading St Luke w St Bartholomew (Oxford).

The Right Rev Brian Skinner, Associate Vicar, St Andrews, Chorleywood (St Albans): to be Rector, St Peter's, Ive (Oxford). The Rev Stephen Williams, Carate, St Birimus Booker, High Wycombe Tearn Ministry to be Curase, Aylesbury Walton Tearn, Aylesbury, responsible for the Church of the Good Shepherd (Oxford).

> -522 37

Br 81.4

24 : 24

Church services tomorrow

Ninth Sunday before Easter

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch,
When the Lord turned again (Drinkell); 3.30
Liturgy for Candlemastide, Puer natus in
Bashiehem (Praetorius), in pace in idipsum

(Biltheman).

BIBMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15
HC: 11 Choral Euch, Teach me O Lord
(Artwood), Rev B Grade: 4 Choral E, Teach
me O Lord (Byrd).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15
Choral M. O Lord the maker of all thing
(Mundy): 10.30 Euch. The Provos: 4 Choral
E, Let all the world (Vaughan Williams),
Camon D Galliee.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 001100

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green:
7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch &
Confirmation, The Gloucester Mass
(Shephard), Bishop of Swindon; 3.30
Choral E. Christ whose glory (Archer), The
Dean.

Euch, Hodie beam virgo (Byrd), Rev J Clark; 11.15 M, When to the temple Mary went Eccard), Canon J Schoffleig, 6.30 E, Yox licentes (Naylor), Canon Dr R Fenwick. LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Videte miraculum (Tailis). The Treasurer: 3.30 E, They that go down to the sea in ships (Purcell). LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8,12.30 HC; 9.30 Family, Jesus Christ the apple tree (Poston); 11.15 Solemn Euch, Rev Dr M Semple; 3.45 E & Procession, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley).

Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police 1931-35, Taunton, 1873; Ger-trude Stein, novelist and critic,

Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1874; Alvar Aalto, architect and de-

signer, Kuortane, Finland, 1898; Luigi Dallapiccola, composer, Pismo, Austria, 1904.

DEATHS: Germain Pilon, sculp-

Nash, master of ceremonies at Bath, Bath, 1761: George Crabbe,

poet. Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1832: Sir Henry Maine, jurist and historian, Cannes, 1888; Sir Morell

Mackenzie, physician, London, 1892; Edward Pickering, astrono-

mer, Cambridge, Massach

tor. Paris, 1590; Richard (Beau)

Semple: 3.45 E & Procession, Ascribe union the Lord (Wesley).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch & Confirmation, The Bishop of Warringston; 3 Education, Wood in E fist no 2, Rev C Hugher-Smith: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M&L: 8.

12.15 Holy Euch, Rev Dt J Baldwin; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 11 S Euch, Great and marvelious are thy works (Boyce), Rev N Court: 3.30 Choral E, The heavens are telling the glory of God (Haydo); 6.30 Parish E & Setmon, The Dean.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, O Sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Ms C Bennette 2.30 Air Training Corps: 6.30 E, Licensing of Diocessan Director of Ordinands & Installations.

NEWCASTIE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 6 HC. The Provost: 9.30 S Euch, The Lamb (Tavener), The Provost: 6 Choral E, Beat (quorum via (Stanford).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Family Euch, Praise ye the Lord (Bauti; 6.30 E, The heavens are telling (Haydon).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Charcellor: 10 Euch, Dignus est Agnus (Williamson), Canon J Osborne: 11.30 M, What God ordains (Bach), Canon D Durston; 3 E, O clap your hands (Gfobons); 6 Taize.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 200 Parish C Cathedral: 8 HC; 9 MP; 2

o INZE.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: B HC; 9 MP; 9.30 Parish C. Canon C Smith: 11 Euch. Missa Brevis (Palestrinal, Canon J Sinclair; 5.30 E & Sermon, Zadok the Priest (Handel). Mr J House.

WAREFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.15
Parish C. The Provost. 11 Solemm Each,
How dear are thy counsels (Crotch), Ray A
Jennings: 4 E. O where shall wisdom be
found (Boyce), Canon G Higgins.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.45, S Each,
Let nothing dissurb thee (Perguson), Rev
Light And All South Early and Company. let nothing disturb thee (Perguson), Rev I: Sughes; I 3.30 M, My soul there is a country Parry); 3 E. Alleinia I heard a voice Weelkes), Rev P de Lucas. WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M, Teach me O Lord (Byrd): 11.15 Euch, Laudate

Hail gladdening light (Wood), Prof A Wolfendale: 5.30 Rectal: 6.30 Evening The WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL 10.30 Solemn Mass, Missa Salve Internerata (Tallis): 3.30 Solemn V&B, Magnificat primi one (Victoria): 4.30 Organ Recital. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10,30 M, O how amiable (Weelkes), Rev T Maguire, 11,30 Euch, Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn): 3,30 E, Greater love (Ireland), Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), Very Rev R Purnell; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Holst): 4 EP: 6.30 Candlemas Candenna, ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Oculi Omnium (Wood), The Deam: 3.30 Choral E, And T saw a new heaven (Bainton). heaven (Bainton).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL 8 HC; 9.30
Parish Such, The Minor Canon: 11.15
Choral M. Pray that Jerusalem (Stanford).
The Saccentor, 6 Choral E O thou the
central orb (Wood), The Minor Canon.

central orb (Wood), The Minor Canon.

ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL. Southwark.

\$10.6 UM; 11.30 SM, Mass for 3 volces (Byrd), Conliteralin Domino (Constaint), Myr L White.

ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8,10 Morning HC., Missa brevis (Kodaly), The Minister: 6 Si George's school: 8 Evening, Rev D Robertson.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL London: 8 HC. 8.45 M; 11 S Euch. O taste and see (Vaughan Williams). Ven G Cassidy: 3.15 E. O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), Rev C Marrham; 5.15 Organ.

ALL SARWIS, Mangaret Street, WI: 8.5.15 LM: 10.20 Mp; 11 HM, Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Rev P Johnstone: 6 E&B, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Dr C Rawli.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, Wi: 9 C; ALL SOULS, Langham Place, WI: 9 C; 11.6.30 Guest service, Rev P Weston. THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11
Missa douce memoire (Lassus), Garduale
(Janacek), Hodie beata virgo Maria
(Arcadet).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 4 HC: 10 Children; 11 Parish Communion, Rev D Bean; 6 E. Rev Dr P. Eny.

SARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30; 10, 12:15, 4.15, 6.15 kbs; 9.30 Fr A. Meredith; 14: 50kmm Mass. Jess. Dutles, Meinstra-Vimoriak, Missa Dominicalis, Wanniag, Vimoriak, Polity and Poli

Gumbel.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, 5W7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Heiligmesse (Haydin, Videns miraculum (Tailis), 12.30, 4.30; 7 Mass; 3.30 V & R. O sacrum convivum (Muranio), ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdms, WE-11 Name day of the Church, Red Tomash, Archibishop of Canterbury's Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs. WESLET'S CHAPEL City Road, EC2: 11
Morning & HC, Rev P Huime.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL
(Methodist), SWI: 10 HC, 11 M. Worship &
Musicians, Rev P Graves; 6:30 HC, Rev P
Graves. Graves, sev F Graves, 6.30 HC, Rev F Graves, 57 ANNE AND ST AGNES (Emberan), Gresham St. ECZ: 11 Choral HC, Rev S Samuel; 7 Chorale Mass, Rev B Coleman, ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, ECA: 11 Choral M & Euch. When 10 the temple (Eczard), Canon J Oates: 6.30 Choral E. Vox dicentis (Naylod, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Air Training Corps, Ave verum corpus (Mozard, Rev M Davenport.

Davenport. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street. SWI: 11 Rev W Cairus: 6.30 Rev C MecLeod. Pont Street, SWI: 11 Rev W Calrus: 6:30 Rev C Mexteod.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Rly Place: 11 S Mass, Missa Pontificalis (Peros). Ave verum (Miland).
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, WI: 2.30 Hc. 11 S Stath, Missa Brevis (Williams). 0 God my King (Amner), The Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Gardickhythe, ECS: 10.30 S Buch, John Paul, Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Sasses Gardens, W2: 8-Euch: 10.30 S Euch. Missa Panae Marcelli (Palestrina), When to the temple (Eccard), Mr N Elddle: 6 Candiemas Vigil.
ST JAMES'S, Piccaedily: 8.30 Hc. 11 S Euch, Rev D Reteres; 5.45 EF.
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E45: 11 Family C, Scherzoso (Rheinberger), Rev M Holmden: 6.30 EF & Prailse Rev D Richards.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NWI: 8 Hc. 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa de Angella. When to the temple Mary wenn (Eccard), Rev R Jarrett.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SWI: 11 S

R Jarrett.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SWI: 11 S
Ench, Darke in F, When to the temple Mary

went (Sceard), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8,
12.30 HC, Rev W Ranchford; 9.45 Euch, The
Vicar, 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann:
2.45 Chioese, Rev G Let: 5, Chord E: 6.30
Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Reasington
WE: 8, 12.30 HC, 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev
Gelli: 11.15 Choral M, Mr N Pain; 6.30 E.
The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH: Printing 6.30 E.
The Vicar. ST MARY THE VIRGIN. Primose Hill: 8 HC 1030 Parish Euch, Torus tuus

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, WI: S RC: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Assumpta est Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestina). Teach me thy way O Lord (Moriey), Rev R McLaren; 6.30 Ministry of Healing. The Rector. ROLLOS.

ST PAUL'S. Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC: 11
Solemn Euch, Teach me O Lord (artwood), iet my complaint come before thee (Batten), Canon J Davies.

Solemin guen, leach he o Ling Anwood, let my complaint come before thee (Batten), Canon J Davies.

ST PETER'S, Raion Square, SW1: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euch, 11 S Euch, Missa ave Maris Stella (Victoria), Senax puerum portabat (Byrd), Fr D B Tillyer.

ST STEPER'S, Raion, Senax puerum portabat (Byrd), Fr D B Tillyer.

ST STEPINON, ELIOTES, Milner St., SW3: 8 HC: 11 MP, Jubilane (Purceil), The heavens are tailing (Haydo), 6.30 Rev G James.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW1: 8,9 LW: 11 Solemn M. Missa Petre eso pro te togary (Lobo), Laudate Dominium (Hassier), Cahon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M & Sermon, Maria waltz zom Heitigrum (Eccard), Cahon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St Jemest Palace 8.30 HC: 11.15 S Euch, Jackson in G, Canon J Smith-Cameron.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Bampion Court Palace 8.30 HC: 11 Choral Euch, Aveverum corpus (Byrd): 3.30 Choral E, If ye love me (Tailis), Splenderne te (Mozard).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Sancii Dominici (Rubbra), Annunciation (Tavener), Hymne a la Vierge (Villenie), Rev Shobs.

GUENNS CHAPEL OF THE SAVOT, WC: 11 S Euch, R. Rev Dr. T Butler.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, And I saw a new heaven and a new carls (Bainton), The Massic.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellingson Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC. Teach me O Lord Anwood), Usic carless (Durufle), Band of Buckley.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL.

Greenwich, SEIO: S Euch, Jrelend in C. Lord we beseech thee (Bairen), Rev R. Buckley.

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BERTHELATE Newspaper, Original Superby presented.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LIDDELL - On Jenusry 250, peacefully, at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, Dunsid Wodiven, aged 78 years, of Usk. Gwent (formerly Consultant Psychiatrist and Head of Department, Kings College Hospital, London), Puneral Service at St Many's Church, Usk. on Wednesday, February 7th. at 10,48 am. followed by a private cremation. No flowers by request.

PULLEYN-HOLDES - Alam Percy (a.k.s. Alam Percy (a.k.s. Alam Percy Chundier) Printer, Publisher and Milme Artist late of The Zrus Press 16-18 Church Street. Bishop's Castle. Struckitte Remerly of 171 Strand WC2 and 8 St Geories Perses, Woolstone Road, Catford SE6 died pessettly at home on 11h January 1996 aged 79. Prograf at Lendon Road Cresslorium. Shrweskary. Funeral at Lendon Russia. Cressidation. Surveybury. Shropshire on Tuesday 13th Funuary 1996 at 10.40 am. Doustions it wished to The Christren's Society. All enquiries to Meastre Snowflerd Solicitors. The Od. Picture. House. Bithop's Castis. Shropshire 579 580. Talephone. Ol.5989 638 425.

Telephone: 01:588 625.

RINGEL - Ch. Petrury 1st
1996 aged 76 pascertuity
after a short liness Socia.
much loved by pertoer Carl.
storer Hilds and their
function. Creatly missed by
all who knew her. Creatistics
on Thursday February 8th at
2 ppr at Roop Lane
Crematorium. NW11. If
destrod donabons for RSPCA
or flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 9
Pand Street. NW3 2PN.

SCHREE - Betty Norsh Annets

MEMORIAL SERVICES emockless - A Memorial Evensong will be held for Brian Brockless on Synday 3rd March 630 pm at the Church of St Burtholeensw-the-Grant, London ECI.

BIRTHDAYS

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE JOHNSON - Many Editabeth.
Died February Sed 1976. In
ever loving remembrance of
Mum. Manyacet and Tobo.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

Storag todays HAPPY BESTH-DAY, jown from all of the

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED

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and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1: 16 (REB) POSS - On Jacousy 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Judith (née Brous) and Jeffrey, a besuitful daughter. Hannah Eve. SEARS - On Jacoury 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Victoria (née Moriock) and David, a datighter, Cordejia Mary. ACCHORE - Un.

27th. to Venessa (née Cassy)
and Peter, a daughter.
Mariella Constance, a sister
for leabelle.
CHAPMAN. - On January
28th. to Sandy (née Mullis)
28th. to Sandy (née Mullis) BLACIGNORE - On Januar 27th, to Vanessa (née Case

DEATHS Caristopher.

COOK - On January 27th
1996. to Lin (née Jenètino)
and Jonathan, a daughter,
Murphy Jordan.

DAVY - On 29th January
1996. to Dissa tote Jellinek)
and Robin, a daughter, a
sister for Cocar.

GANGULI - On 25th January,
to Sabhan (née Minyee) end
Ranjan, a benotiful beby girl.
Angiarad Emily.

HAGGAS - On January 29th
1996. to Emma (née Luwood)
and Silmon, a daughter.
Madeline Kate, a sister for
Potlysuma.

JEMUNS - See Cook.

AMMETT - William Lewis peocetally but suddenly in Bath on February 1st 1996 aged 96 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret, much loved brother of Helen and St Nicholas Church: Bithampton, on Thursday February 8th 1996 st 1.30m. followed by grivane cremation. Family flowers only but donations it desired for Caroer Research may be sent to Jollys Funeral Directure, 7 Windoor Place. Upper Bristel Road. Bath. SAI 3DF.

Tel. 01.672.870727.
COWAM - On 1st February.
Robin Buchenan died suddenly but peacefully in human, ble of stam. Dearly beloved husband of Mariora, dement father of Rossmary and Floors, and much loved by his grandchildren. The huserl service will be held at 2.45pm on Wednesday. 7th February. at Douglas Borough Crematorium.
Family Howers only. Donations, if desired, to Runsey Cottage Mespital.
Runsey Enquiries to Curkhill & Callow Ltd., tel: (01620) 813114.

BURKE - On Saturday January 27th, Steer Adrianof St Maur's Convent. formerly at Oatlands and Thames Dilton. Vigil reception at St Maur's Convent. Monday February 5th at 4.30 pm. Funeral Mass. Tuesday February 6th at 10.45 m. followed by interment at Waybridge Constery.

GATH - Horace Charles, formerly of Barton-on-the-Heath, peacefully on February ist 1996 aged 86 years, beloved hundred of Larraine and a much loved father, grandfather, Service at 81 Deays Church, Little Compton, on Thursday February 8th at 2 gm. COLES - On Soth January 1996, suddenly at his home in Barnagul Australia. John Newbery Coles. aged 64 years. Much loved husband of Mavis, beloved the barnet of Karin, David, Russell and or Marin. Devid. Reseast and Craig. The fishered has taken place at his home in Australia any enquiries via John's saler. Jone Summer. Tel. 01,672,870727.

(01624) 913114.

EWING - On 28th Jamery.
peacetally at King Edward
VII Hospital. Midcharsl.
Margired Journ of Fernburst.
Printers Service on Friday.
9th February at Golddard
Creminforms at 230 pts. No
Gowers please but decadons
to Cancer Research
Campaign c/o G.M. Luff &
Partners. 84 Lion Lane.
Haslamere. Surrey GU27
1.FT.

en de la companya de la co

GROVE - On 31st January 1996 suddenly at bonne Chve Ruth aged 65 years of Crewkerne. Somerset, Widow of the late fon and mother of Tom. Funeral Service will have place at St Martin's Church, North Petrott, on Friday 9th Patruary at 2 pm, feliawed by therment, Fundly flowers only planes. Donatiens if desired for Save the Chiffren C/o A.J. Wakety & Some. Chapel House, Harmitage Street. Crewkerne. Somerset. tel: (01460) 74847.

MAMMOND - Geoffrey William, Peacefully at home on 1st February, Much lawed bushund, father and triand. Fullerful Wednesday 7th February 2 gm at Dovidag Cramatorium, Flowers or domations for M.N.D. c/e L.W. Hawkins & Sons, Leathernead, Surrey. MENDERSON - On 31st January 1996 suddenly at Braidhursz Cottage, Shandon, Etmeth Lindsey beloved wife of Tim and medic of Anna and Elesson, Service at Rhu Purish Church on Tuesday 6th February at 2 pm. February at 2 pm, no flowers, thereafter private.

HUPSARD - Miriam diel
rosowing a rosa secident on
February 1st. Funerai
Service at St Edmunds
Camolic Church, Bury St
Edmunds, Suffelk, on
Monday 12th February at
2gm. Family Govers only.
Donations if desired to St
Micholas Hospics. Bury St
Edmunds, Suffelk. Memorial
Service to follow at a labor
date.

MORTON - On 2nd February pancefully at Winchestohe Heapital. Canon Pater Morton, sped 83 years. Descrip leved husband of Jonn, loved by David and Jensy, Mary and Dave, Elasner and Phil and his grandchigren, February 1996 at 11.50am february 1996 at 11.50am february by savate remarken. Family Howers soly, doubtons february levers soly, doubtons february Research Luitzenia Research Co Seilm Smith & Co. Ltd., 74 Prestbury Gen. Prestbury Chellenham, Glas.

Pend Street, NW3 2PN.

SOURSE - Bety Norsh Angels of States Court, Lendon W2, reddenly on Jenuary 30th. Functal on Friday February 9th at 8 Leonard's Church. Flamsted. Heritordshive at 5 pm. Family Rowets only but densitions if desired to the British Red Cross.

STEPHENSON - Suddenly on Toeslay 30th January 1996. George Nigel Prisamer of Charles Crescand, Lende. Beloved son of Elm and the late Commander Keith Stephenson. a dear brother of John and dearest of John and the family. MUNRO - Eine. Peacefully at the City Hospital on 1st February 1996. Eine a bowd mother of Michael. Christopher and Rom, and a-loved grandmother and great-formation of the family. Service at Morambell Pentiand Chapel on Monday 5th February at 2.15 pm, lo which all friends are invited.

PRIVATE flemerabered with love every day, especially on Pebruary 4th - your brinday. Jennifer. dh-your britiday. Jennifer.
COVEN - In cherisined
nemory of Rais. very loved
Mamma, on her birihday.
Frank and Edwina.
FOX - Ron. Always
remembered and always
loved. Thoughts of you
especially today on this
anniversary. Daphne,
Sundra and hanky.

IN MEMORIAM -NTHONY - 1922-1990.

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OBITUARIES

Léonor Fini, painter, died in Paris on January 18 aged 87. She was born in Buenos Aires on August 30; 1908.

A WOMAN of such arresting beauty that many beholders found her presence even more disconcerting than the nightmarish visions of her canvases, Leonor Fini was perhaps the last link with the Surrealist era. Over the years she evolved a highly effective terhinique for conveying her sometimes morbid eroticism. Her pictures suggest the frémissement of physical relations between human beings with a strange,

dispassionate lucidity.

True, she was in her latter years in peril of lapsing into the merely cute of becoming a somewhat thresome.

Anals Nin of the paintbrush. (Her whole persons was a carefully calculated art form, designed to overwhelm the senses and silence the critical faculties.) But at their most powerful, her pictures tackle the age-old enigma—as well as the profound ambiguity — of sex and sexual auracion, with the disturbing directness which is to be found in the finest work of Balthus or

Although her father was Argentin-ian her mother was a native of Trieste. She was brought up in the city which, in those twilight years of the Austro-In those twilight years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was a fascinating racial melting pot at the junction of Germanic, Italian and Slay culture. It was the city of James Joyce and Rilke, and of Italo Svevo, both whose pen-name and his real name (Eitere. Schmitz)—make him quintessernially the representation of the Trieston at her the representative of the Triestine ethos of the period. Fini herself had Slav, Italian, Spanish and German blood in her veins and was thoroughly at home

in such company.

She began to paint at an early age.

She had no formal training but she travelled widely and immersed herself in the work of the major figures of the period. In Vienna she saw the work of Klimt and Schiele. She wandered at will in the galleries of Florence and . Venice In Milan she became familiar with the work of Giorgio de Chirico and came under the influence of Carlo

Carra, Achille Puni and Arturo Tosi. It was in Milan that she had her first, wonderful clothes horse) Fini made exhibition. It cannot be said that her acceptance at that time did not owe as and parties was such that the critics much to her spectacular fooks and her were fell with their pencils poised bizarre habits (much of her life inertly over their notebooks. On one drawing was done in mortuaries or occasion she performed what these from the corpses of tramps in the days whill be regarded somewhat streets) as to her talent, undeniable municipally as a flash, when asked

LÉONOR FINI



People on a Terrace by Léonor Fini

reveal

wearing a fur cost, she threw it open to

Her lovers were legion. Their names

read like a roll of the literary and

artistic talents of that brilliant age. She had a (for her) long relationship with Max Ernst: Picasso was infatuated:

Paul Éluard wrote poems to her. She

then established a triangular ménage

with the Italian consul in Monte Carlo

and the Polish writer Constantin

Jelenski, which endured for more than

forty years and provided her with the

sort of basis of calm her tempestuous

of the major contributors to the New York Museum of Modern Art's Fantastic Art exhibition, just before the war. She also had a solo show there in

1939. In 1942 she exhibited in Zurich.

She was a prolific artist. She was one

nature demanded.

the undraped splendours

though the latter was. But it was Paris .. why, on a summer's night, she was that she was to make her creative

Moving there in 1931 she made her mark with an exhibition of gouaches at the Galerie Bonjean. She went on to exhibit a series of "dessins automatiques et anamorphiques" at the celebrated Surrealist show of 1933. and took her work to the Burlington Galleries, London, and, in 1938, to New York, where it was presented by de Chirico and the poet Paul Eluard.

Clad often in Schiaparelli dresses igner could not resist such a sure that her entrance to private views

natural metier and it was no surprise that she subsequently performed the same service for the erotic masterpiece L'Histoire d'O by Pauline Réage (revealed only recently to be, in fact, Dominique Aury).
Her style often varied, and she was

Moving to Rome, she famously illus-

trated an edition of the Marquis de

Sade's Juliette. Book illustration was a

open to the charge that she used her influences as the mood or situation demanded. It is difficult to imagine the same hand in pictures as different as the distantly viewed People on a Terrace, which partakes of her fascination with Freudian dream and inhabits the realm of pure fantasy, and The Train Journey, in which the observer is asked to intrude at close quarters on an encounter between lesbian lovers in the closed compartment of a railway

carriage.
Yet the sense of ironical detachment remained common to all she did. It provoked an outburst from Jean Genet who, though a close friend, was almost alone among her distinguished con-temporaries in during to voice something less than total admiration of her work. In his now celebrated Lettre à Leonor Fini of 1950 he berated her bitterly for the lack of engagement he felt when looking at her pictures. "Why" he expostulated to her, "should I work myself up about an art which does not touch me ... which contains only those same, unending elements of despair and mortuary desolation?" The world has not agreed with his

verdict, and nor did she. She carried on painting with even greater zest. Her unflagging creative energy was one of her most remarkable characteristics. From book illustration she branched out into set and costume design. Among her earlier efforts in this direction was the ballet Les Demoiselles de la nuit (1948), by Jean Anouilh, with music from Jean Français. Her own ballet, Le Réve de Léonor Fini (1949) was choreographed by Frederick Ashton to music by Benjamin Britten. She also designed film sets: Castellani's Roméo et Juliette (1952) and John Houston's A Walk with Love and Death (1968) among them. Her work for the stage included the design for a production of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Ernest in 1955.

Never marrying, and with no child-ren from any of her liaisons, she latterly divided her time between her Paris flat and a house on a quiet stretch of the River Loire.

JULIAN HILL

Julian Werner Hill, research chemist who discovered aviou, died in Hockessin, Delaware, on January 28 aged 91. He was born in St Louis. Missouri, on September 4, 1904.

NYLON, the synthetic material that revolutionised everything from women's stockings to parachutes, ropes, fishing line, carpets and toothbrushes, may have been one of the most valuable patents ever filed by Du Pont, the American company in whose labora-tory the discovery was made. But Julian Hill, the young researcher who made the crucial breakthrough in 1930. received no reward and little credit for his work. Du Pont company policy compelled new employees to sign away their patent rights to all dis-coveries. On instructions of the legal department, his name did not even appear on the final patent application for nylon, made in 1937.

That honour went to Wallace Carothers, the head of Hill's department. Carothers had by some accounts poohpoohed the importance of his young assistant's accidental discovery that a particular mixture of carbon- and alcohol-based molecules, plus water, could become a strong and silky thread when stretched at room temperature. What Hill had invented was a process known as "cold drawing," which oriented the molecules into a long linear chain and fostered strong bonding between them. It was ultimately to produce a material stronger than steel by weight, and almost inflammable: nylon.

But Hill's initial material had a low melting point and was unsuitable for textile applications. Du Pont, which was looking for an artificial substitute for silk, echoed Carothers' initial lack of interest, though the two men did produce papers at the 1931 meeting of the American



Chemical Society, since hailed as the first public discussion of the nylon research programme. It was in 1934, when Carothers was persuaded to repeat the experiment using polyamides, that progress was renewed.

Carothers, who had a history of manic depression, commined suicide by swallowing poison at the age of 41, only three weeks after the patent application was filed. He and Hill had been close friends, jointly publishing many papers in technical journals. According to his widow Carothers always felt that Hill had not received sufficient

credit for his pioneering work. The first nylon stockings went on sale in the United States in 1938, although the name was not coined until the New York World's Fair the

following year. Although production of stockings was reduced in succeeding years as the material was diverted to use in war materials, they became an influential form of currency for American forces stationed in Britain. After the Second World War nylon swept the hosiery market, and its other uses expanded

exponentially.
Hill, meanwhile, continued a quiet career in Du Pont's research laboratories, which he had joined in 1928 after gaining his PhD in organic chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He retired in 1964 and became head of Du Pont's philanthropic foundation, the Crystal Trust.

Julian Hill is survived by Polly, his wife of 62 years, and by two sons and one daughter.

PETER BROOKS

Peter Brooks. and author, died on

IN A long and varied career devoted to aviat few aspects of flying either military or civil, to which Peter Brooks did not bring his experience and expertise Starting as an aeronautical engineer and then learning to fly, he went on to become a crack glider pilot before gaining one of the earliest helicopter pilor's licences. In the Fleet Air Arm during the war he flew combat patrols from aircraft carriers over Atlantic and Arctic convoys, before becoming a test pilot for a whole range of naval aircraft.

After the war, as an execu-

tive of British European Au-ways, he oversaw the introduction of the first turbonaco and jet airliners into British airline service, before switching to a very different sphere, the Beagle light aircraft com-pany. In addition to this, over the last twenty or so years of his life he had been a prolific writer, and through a succession of books he was able to make his experience and encyclopaedic knowledge a perma-nent part of aviation hist-

oriography.
Peter Wright Brooks was born at Teddington, Middle-



sex, educated at Chillon Callege, Switzerland, and the City and Guilds Engineering College of London University. He tearm to fly in 1938 at the London Air Park Plying Chub and went on to gain the full range of philippe services. range of gliding certificates, including the much coveted. Silver C souring certificate. Later, he was to hold one of the early British helicopter

pilot neemees.

In 1940 he joined the staff of The Aeroplane magazine and at the same time became air correspondent of the Manchester Evening News. This combination of writing and "hands on" skills enabled him to make what was to be a wide ranging contribution to British and world aviation. When war began he also found himself devoting much time to lecturing on aircraft

topic than it may sound at this distance, given the propensity of anti-aircraft gunners to blaze away at everything that flew (and, for that matter, the tendency of naval fighterbomber crews to mistake Britbattleships). But in 1941 Brooks joined the Fleet Air Arm, flying sorties in anti-quated Fairey Swordfish bi-planes on Atlantic and Arctic convoys. Next he became a fest pilot for the Royal Navy's British and American aircraft, exacting work which took him to the US, Canada, the Mediterranean and the Middle

in 1947 he joined the Ministry of Civil Aviation as a technical officer engaged on future plans, while spending his weekends as an instructor and glider-tug pilot at the Surrey Gliding Club. In 1950 he went to British European Airways as, successively, assistant to the chief executive, Peter Masefield, and the chairman, Lord Douglas. He was then made BEA's fleet planning manager during the introduction into service of the highly successful prop-jet Vickers Viscount airliner and its successor, the Vanguard, as well as for the turbo-jet Cornet IVb.

From BEA he moved to Beagle Aircraft where he stayed from 1961 to 1968, first

recognition, a more important as deputy and then as joint managing director. There he brought into service new British light aircraft such as the B206, the Bassett, the Pup and the Beagle/Scottish Aviation Bulldog which followed the Tiger Moth as the prima-RAF and the Swedish Army. As manager for international collaboration with the Brit-

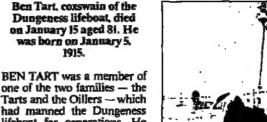
ish Aircraft Corporation and then British Aerospace, be-tween 1968 and 1984, he travelled extensively overseas 152 lives. promoting the export of the Dungeness is a remote com-Viscount, the BAC One-Eleven and the VC10.

With half a century of flying behind him on more than 150 types of aircraft, Peter Brooks remained at the centre of British light aircraft and helicopter affairs up to the mid-1980s. In 1985 he was invited to Washington for two years as the first International Fellow of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum where he specialised on re-search into the history of rotary-wing aircraft.

His books, published in the UK and the US, illustrate the range of his knowledge. They include The Modern Airliner (1961), Historic Airships (1979), The World's Sailplanes (1980). Flight Through The Ages (1984), Cierva Autogiros (1988) and Zeppelin Rigid Airships (1893-1940) (1992). A long-time Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, he was for many years a valued lecturer at its annual air transport training A skilled and practical avia-

tor, but also a quiet and studious gentle man, devoted to his family, Peter Brooks married Patty Thomson of Vancouver in 1951. She survives him with their son and daughter.

BEN TART



one of the two families - the Tarts and the Oillers - which had manned the Dungeness lifeboat for generations. He twenties and remained with it for almost forty years, 22 of them in the capacity of coxswain. During that time the lifeboat was launched on 393 occasions, with the saving of

munity, poised on the edge of a busy shipping lane. Many of the collisions in the Channel are caused by bad weather and fog. For this reason, Tart enjoined his crew not just to watch with their eyes but to sniff out an accident with their noses. A collision could often be more easily detected from the resulting oil spillage than by the speciacle of wreckage.

The Tart family was thought to be of Huguenot descent, and the women as well as the men of the family traditionally helped to launch the lifeboat. Ben Tart was educated in Dungeness, and then became a fisherman, mainly drifting and trawling, like his father and grandfather before him. In 1935 he Watson beach class lifeboat Charles Cooper Henderson. During the war, Tart volunwas asked to carry on where he was, fishing being a relifeboat and five years later second coxswain. He became

joined the crew of the Dungeness lifeboat, the 41ft teered for the Royal Navy, but served occupation. After-wards, in 1946, he was appointed bowman of the coxswain 22 years later in



Ben Tart and his wife Doris with the Dungeness lifeboat Mabel E. Holland

swain. Honker Haines. In 1974 he was awarded the RNLI's silver medal for gallantry for one particuarly remarkable rescue. It was February, and conditions were appalling, with driving hurri-cane-force winds making the attempt particularly hazardous. The seas were breaking on the beach in such a way that the launchers had to be roped together when placing the skids to prevent their being washed away. The lifeboat the Mabel E. Holland - was thrown heavily on to the beach and was launched with the greatest difficulty. It was known that there was a badly injured man on board the motor vessel Merc Texco.

Tart somehow manoeuvred the lifeboat alongside the mo-1965, and retired ten years tor vessel with winds exceed-after that to make way for the ing 70 knots and with seas

promotion of his second cox- more than 50ft high. The ship's head was paying off the whole time, making it extremely dangerous for the lifeboat which suffered damage to stanchions and bulwarks. Nevertheless. a stretcher was passed and the first-aider, Peter Thomas, succeeded in boarding the motor vessel. The injured man was transferred to the lifeboat. He was then strapped down in the cabin and held by three crew members. The injured man was eventually landed safely. Tart was awarded not only the silver medal but the Maud Smith Award for the bravest act of lifesaving that year.

Ben Tart's wife Doris. whom he married in 1942, was the daughter of the lifeboat's coxwain for 31 years, 1916-47. Douglas Oiller. She survives him. There were no children of the marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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DEATH OF MONSIEUR **DE PARIS**

MAN WHO EXECUTED 400 FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT PARIS, FEB. 2

Anatole Deibler, otherwise known as "Mor sieur de Paris" and "The executor of high works," who for 40 years had been Head Executioner to the French Republic, died auddenly at the age of 75 after a heart attack while he was entering an Underground station to-day. He was to have carried out an execution at Rennes, in Brittany, to-morrow at

A mild-mannered little man, with typical Gallic moustachios and "Imperial," Deibler had long been a legendary figure, both by reason of his many years of service and the fact that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him had held the same high affice, the first of the Deibler dynasty having succeeded to the renowned Sansons. In his private life he was a devoted husband and faither, and one of the great sorrows of his existence was the death at the early age of five of his only sun, to whom he looked as the heir of a great family tradition. He found some consolation, however, in the justifiable hope that his principal assistant, a nephew named

tion of the state of the state

ON THIS DAY **February 3, 1939**

Anatole Deibler, head executioner to the French Republic, was said to boast that he had not an enemy in the world; no doubt - not in this world.

Obrecht, would succeed him and thus main-

tain the hereditary principle. Deibler acted as assistant to his father, who retired in 1899 after his 169th execution, and was duly appointed in his place. During his active career he dispatched over 400 criminals, among them Landru and other outstanding personalities, with his bois de justice, as the guillotine is commonly called. He fell on lean days in 1906 when, in anticipation of the passage of a Bill abolishing the death penalty, the Budget Committee of the Chamber suppressed the funds available for his office.

After 42 months of inactivity, during which time he was obliged to maintain at his own expense the two grisly machines in his possession—they were always beautifully kept—he came into his own again, when the reprieve of a particularly brutal murderer swung public opinion in the other direction, and heads once more began to fall. It is not true that his revenue was on a per capita basis. his allowance being fixed at 18,000 francs a

Deibler was particularly conservative in his habits, and was faithful to the end to the horsedriven cart in which he transported his grim apparatus to and from the railway station. This did not, however, mean that he was insensible to progress. Indeed, he made many improvements to his guillotines, and proudly claimed that he had beaten all records for rapid executions. It was also his boast that he had not an enemy in the world. No doubtnot in this world.

BAN ON "LAMBETH WALK"

BERLIN, FEB. 2 "The Lambeth Walk," a dance which continues to enjoy a great vogue in Berlin and other large German cities, has fallen under the heavy displeasure of the authorities of the University of Heidelberg. The Parry student leader. Or. Scherberger, has forbidden with immediate effect the dancing and playing of "swing" and "The Lambeth Walk" at any gathering of students. NATIURE NOTES & LIENUS

NEWS

Kohl plea on nation state

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, yesterday urged Europe to turn its back on the nation state and resist efforts by Britain at the Maastricht review to slow the advance to deeper integration of the Union. Speaking in Louvain, Belgium, he voiced alarm over the growing opposition to the plan for monetary union and steps towards greater harmony Page 1

IRA is blamed for attack

■ The IRA was believed to have been responsible for an attack on the home of an off-duty police officer in which 57 shots were fired yesterday. The Northern Ireland Office said they were unaware of any motive for the shooting near the village of Moy, ... Pages 1, 20 and 21 Co Tyrone..

Ashdown security

Faddy Ashdown agreed to roundthe-clock bodyguards at his constituency in Somerset after his car was destroyed by a petrol

Mother's victory

A mother who was accused of being over-protective towards her disabled son won the right to influence his life. . Page 3

University talks Vice-chancellors stepped back

charge university entrants £300 after an offer of talks Page 4 Rocket triumph Steve Bennett'S attempt to become

from voting on proposals to

the first amateur to put a rocket into space took a giant leap a successful launch Page 5

Ten life sentences

A released mental patient who slashed the throats of 15 women in a department store was given 10 Page 9

Fox destroys the royal flamingos

Buckingham Palace was reeling from its worst security breach since Michael Fagan sat on the Queen's bed and asked for a cigarette. A fox has penetrated the garden and killed the royal flamingos. Police discovered the mutilated bodies of six birds close to their ornamental pond home

Scargill fights on

Arthur Scargill will renew his campaign to gather support for the Socialist Labour Party despite a poor showing at the Hemsworth by-election .. . Page 10

Pigeon sentence

An woman who cannot stop feeding pigeons was sent back to prison for 56 days, leaving a trail of angry neighbours Page 11 Rug-making row

A drive by British charities against

importing Indian hand-knowed carpets made by children has divided social activists Page 12 Forbes under fire

Steve Forbes's free ride is over. Having built up the multimillionaire publisher the American media has begun subjecting him to serious scrutiny Page 13

Publishing success

The Amazon of French publishing. celebrates her publishing house's tenth anniversary Page 16

LETTERS Judges on sentencing; La Fenice and the fire; practising forgiveness; women at the top; A & L flotation .. Page 21

Per amateur ad astra: Rock-

ets are fired by the imagina-

tion as well as liquid

hydrogen, ions - or even

., Page 21

together.

To the convention: It would Simon Jenkins: The hest hope for Ulster is that Mr be tragic if Sinn Fein were to Major's formal process neirefuse to embrace the most ther collapses nor succeeds, important elections of all - to a body which could bring that he can keep both extrem-Northern Ireland's people ists at bey Page 20 .. Page 21

John Redwood: As Mr Blair and Mr Clinton have had to accept, people are hungry for pragmatic conservatism: And they want taxes downPage 20

OBITUARIES

Léonor Fini, painter, Peter Brooks, aero-engineer; Ben Tart, lifeboat coxswain; Julian Hill chemist who discovered nylon...

Airports: British Airways is to create 1,000 new jobs as it switches flights from Heathrow to Gatwick Page 25

Toy Wars: Mattel, the Barbie doll maker, has abandoned its \$5.2 billion offer for Hasbro after accusing the rival American toy company of launching a "scorched earth" campaign to remain independent... ... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 gained: 28.5 points to 3781.3. Sterling rose from 83.6 to 83.8 after rises from \$1.5130 to \$1.5190 and from DM2.2593 to DM2.2595.

Rugby union: Today's meeting between Scotland and France is likely to be the defining match of the five nations' championship. England and Wales meet at Twickenham Pages 47. 48

Cricket: England fly out to Pakistan for the World Cup today with the Pakistan government promising that they will take all possible security measures

Football: David Batty's future at Blackburn looks increasingly uncertain after he was again omitted from the Page 42

Unhappy birthday: Clumsy amplification and a muddled production mara centenary staging of Puccini's La Bohème in the Albert Hall, says Rodney Milnes..... Page 17

Wembley v Manchester: Who will win the race to build Britain's national stadium? Marcus Binney reports..... Page 19

Motoring hype: Cars are now being sold to appeal to the fantasies of the

Robert Grampton meets a Chaplin of the 90s. Page 8 Louis Farrakhan: Dream of a racially divided

WEEKEND

America Page 26

British flagship Pages L 3



Forestry: How to build your own wood Page 4 Books: Bestsellers and new paperbacksPages 6, 7

10 15

Solo star. The brains behind East 17..... Page 6 Win: A Sony Wide screen

vision



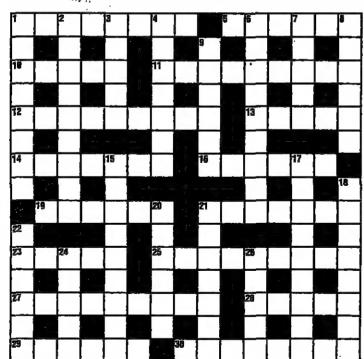
greaves's children visit her last mountain Films of the week: The original Sabrina Fair

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,081

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberiour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times. Saturday Crossword Competition. PO

Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- At sea, read lots in navigational guide (8).
- 5 Impostor displays activity and enthusiasm (6).
- 10 Short run in appearance in silly play (5).

 11 Religion takes me in paths our of the normal (9).
- 12 Don't anticipate being in trouble
- ufter delay (4,3,2). 13 Emblem and name required to start computer session (3.2).
- 14 Group of soldiers cut short prescribed exercise etc. (7).
- 16 Fast car is what attracts attention?
- Stepped on it! (3.3).

 19 Bit suspiciously at first into fun-
- gus (6).
 21 Rubbish in the entrance can be a killer (7).
- 23 At the proper moment, put chalk here (2.3).
- 25 Bagman pleased to receive several
- 27 Ratty's friend gets new house in Cornish town (9).
- 28 I for a change must appear in panto horse (5). 29 Sacred Hindu text — outbursts
- when false plural is seen (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,075

30 Adored by fans, though I did lose

Departed from hospital, but not going right (8).
 Died, going wrong with act showing reckless heroism (7-2).
 Where to find book left, and female? (5).

4 Pain - is right treatment this? (7).

6 In pure perplexity, composer's seen to fill in with padding (9).

(5).

8 Mischievous girl portrayed in Enigma Variation (6).

9 Melodic fragment from Stravin-

sky's first, of course (6).

15 Old soldier not usually seen on mount Athos, for example (9).

17 Retiring? Succeeded in getting

Neat present for daughter (8).

Body of soldiers runs out of

Enterprising Indian chief? (2-5). Make a ton in style (6).

24 Large container, worthy companion to another (5).
26 Part of flower — confirm it's round

head of plant (5).

Living at home, ask to go outside

DOWN

LAST WEEKS WINNERS: 5 May. Mortimer. Reading: N Hart. Woking: D L Stevenson, Edinburgh: P L Wyatt, London: T Donovan. Knocklyon, Dublin.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

OPINION

& S Yorks & Dates

AA ROADWATCH

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sum sets: 453 pm London 4 53 pm to 7.25 am

Lest quarter February 12 London 4 54 pm to 7,34 am Bristol 5 04 pm to 7,43 am Edinburgh 4 51 pm to 8,01 am Manchester 4 56 pm to 7,49 am Penzance 5 20 pm to 7,51 am

HIGH TIDES

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London Bridge	0:54	64	125	65
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Oban	4.58	36	5:27	37
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Portland	5:42	18	6.13	17
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

General: England and Wales will

General: England and Weles will have a mainly cloudy start but bighter weather will edge steadily south cluring the day with the best of the blue skies along western coasts. Isolated wintry showers will pepper the North East and these will effect East Anglia and the far South East after dark. Scotland and Northern Ireland can expect a mainly dry day with the occasional light show flurry in southeast Scotland, dwing dat diving southeast Scotland, dying out during the morning. The east will remain-rather cloudy but in the west and

across Northern Ireland it will be dry with sunny periods. ☐ London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel leles: cloudy, sunny spalls. Channel Isles: cloudy, sunny developing, isolated wintry showers after dark. Wind north to northeast, gentle. Rather cold. Max 30, 3377); ☐ Central S England, É & W Midlends, SW England, Central N:

mainly cloudy, some sunahine developing. Wind north, light to moderate Rather cold. Max 4C (39F).

E & NE England, Borders: Windy □ E & NE England, Borders: Winty showers dying out later. Suriny spells. Dry after dark. Wind north to northeast, gentie. Max 3C (37F).
□ S & N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: dry with some sunstaine. Wind northeast moderate, Feeling mild. Max 4C (39F).
□ Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Morey First, NE Scotland. Orthey, Strettand. County with the bright spells. Wind north to northeast gentle. Feeling cold. Max 3C (37F).
□ NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow,

gentle. Feeling cold. Max 3c (3/F).

NW & SW Scotland, Glaegow,
Central Highlands, Argyll, IN fre-land: sunny periods, Staying dry.
Wind east to southeast gentle. Feeling rether mild. Mex 5C (41F).

Outlook: east mainly dry and

bright, west becoming wet and windy.

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⇔Cloudy Drizzie Rain

TORONTO WITH NIAGARA BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 23 May, 11 Aug. 30 Aug or 14 Sep. • five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • city tour • barbour cruise • Niagara with helicopter

• Phantom of the Opera • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999 or £2,999 with O.E. and QE2 cruise to New York

MONACO GRAND PRIX

Eurostar or fly to Paris on 18 May • city tour • overnight at Nikko Hotel • Concorde supersonic to Nice • reserved seat for Monaco Grand Prix • return to Gatwick £1,299

QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde supersonic to Tenerife on 17 April

• five night QE2 cruise to Southampton via Las Palmas
and Madeira • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,499

cruise to Southampton via Alicante, Tangier and Lisbon Orient-Express to Victoria £1,499 Orient Express to Southampton on 17 June

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